

crucial in ensuring the growth needed in the region. Only with such growth can we hope to realize and sustain a more stable and prosperous Middle East. In addition, the Bank will help ensure that qualified individuals, often trained in the United States, will remain in the region and contribute to its growth.

We look forward to working closely with you and your staff in our continuing efforts to gather support for the MENABank. Thank you again for your help with this critical initiative.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LARKIN,
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

NOTES ON H.R. 856

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, before this House votes on H.R. 856, I want to inform my colleagues of a very recent development concerning one of the status options.

One of the most controversial issues in this legislation is the exclusion of an autonomy option that satisfies Puerto Ricans and that complies with the strict criteria of constitutional constraints and public policy imperatives.

Under H.R. 856, Puerto Ricans that do not favor either independence or statehood are forced to opt from the equally undesired extremes of plenary territorial subordination or a free association formula that is really so undefined that it is practically indistinguishable from full independence.

We must offer the people of Puerto Rico fair and realistic options that are clearly and fully defined. That being the case, I want to bring to the attention of this House a proposal that has recently been circulated in Washington and Puerto Rico.

This proposal calls for the development of the present status into a relationship of autonomy within the context of a Treaty of Union between Puerto Rico and the United States. It has been suggested by former Puerto Rico Senate and Popular Democratic Party President, Miguel Hernández Agosto. Many of you may know Senator Hernández Agosto as the person in charge of the pro-commonwealth party during the 1993 plebiscite which they won.

The Treaty of Union proposal has been endorsed or welcomed in Puerto Rico by prominent pro-commonwealth leaders like the Mayors of Ponce, Carolina, Caguas, San Juan and various other civic groups and legislators.

This proposal represents a fresh approach in the attempt to develop commonwealth into a fuller measure of self-government that is compatible with continued ties to the U.S.

This association would operate under a nation-to-nation agreement that will encapsulate, among others, the defense, common market, citizenship and currency provisions that are so relevant to both the U.S. and Puerto Rico. It also permits Puerto Rico to retain and affirm its distinct culture and linguistic identity.

I sincerely hope that if discussion on political status moves forward, Congress will have the opportunity to properly and seriously analyze this deserving and innovative approach.

AMENDMENT #4 (Autonomy Definition)

P. 12, Sec. 4: Strike out completely page 12 and in lieu thereof insert the following: A. Autonomy—if you agree, mark here_____

The people of Puerto Rico, in the exercise of its natural right, and of its free will as the source of all political power, do hereby establish an autonomous body politic in union with the United States of America under a treaty which cannot be altered unilaterally and subject to the following:

(1) Puerto Rico will control and determine its own nationality and citizenship, provided that the United States citizens born in Puerto Rico will retain such citizenship, unless they voluntarily renounce it, and will be entitled to the same rights and privileges as any other United States citizen.

(2) Puerto Rico will have the authority and responsibility for its internal and external affairs, including, but not limited to, language, olympic and diplomatic representation, customs, enter into agreements to foster its economic development by joining regional and international trade agreements. Puerto Rico may enter into tax-sparring agreements with other nations which may have an effect on its economy similar to the 936 provision of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, recently abolished. The United States will encourage and support the participation of Puerto Rico in such regional and international organizations.

(3) The United States and Puerto Rico will exchange diplomatic representations and will maintain continuous and friendly consultations with the purpose of achieving concerted actions on foreign affairs.

(4) A common market will exist between Puerto Rico and the United States which would permit free flow of persons, goods, and services between both nations.

(5) The United States will maintain its authority and responsibility over defense matters. This would include:

(a) Responsibility for the defense of Puerto Rico and its people in the same manner as to the United States and its people.

(b) The United States, at its option, may deny or limit access of any foreign power of facilities in Puerto Rico.

(c) The United States, at its option, may own and maintain in Puerto Rico the military bases or installations presently operating in Puerto Rico under the terms of specific agreements.

(d) Any Additional needs will be considered and agreed upon on separate and specific accords.

(6) Except for property needed for defense purposes, all other property under Federal Ownership will be transferred to Puerto Rico.

(7) The official U.S. currency will be the official currency of Puerto Rico and all Federal applicable laws are made part of the compact.

(8) With the purpose of assisting the government of Puerto Rico to promote the economic well being of its people and in recognition of the special present and future relations between Puerto Rico and the United States, the United States will provide a block grant in an amount at least equal to the amounts provided to the government of Puerto Rico. Individuals will maintain federal entitlements such as social security, veterans benefits, and others on the same basis as at present.

(9) Except for currency and defense, federal laws will cease to apply to Puerto Rico, unless otherwise agreed, effective on the date in which this compact becomes effective.

(10) Any dispute as to the interpretation of this compact which cannot be resolved by negotiation between the parties, can be re-

ferred by any party to a special Court on the U.S. Puerto Rico Compact, which will be created by separate agreements.

Comments: All the formulas should be free and independent one from the other, and not juxtapositioned one with the other as the case of independence and Free Association. The Free Association alternative should be defined in clearer terms, than what the bill does. If it is carefully studied, you will see that the independence and the statehood definitions, are spell out, but Autonomy or Free Association is not. As the bill is a this moment, U.S. Citizenship is only featured in the statehood alternative as a way to obtain more votes in the possible Referendum. There is no legal restriction to feature U.S. Citizenship in Autonomy or Free Association; and, additionally, since Puerto Ricans have had the citizenship for the last 80 years and there has been no problems we believe that the two alternatives should run on a equal footing.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. NANCY DICKEY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to briefly express my congratulations, encouragement and best wishes to Dr. Nancy Dickey of College Station, Texas, who in June, will take office as the first female president of the American Medical Association. The AMA is this country's most active, notable and influential group of physicians, a group that lends its expertise and experience to America's state and federal legislators, as well as our doctors and the families that they care for. I have always said that when shaping public policy dealing with medicine and health care reform, well-intentioned Members of Congress must hear the vital voices of our medical practitioners.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Nancy Dickey has a long history with Congress of lending her expertise and experience to us as we have considered and deliberated on the important health care issues of the day. In addition to giving over 200 speeches addressing women's issues and encouraging more young women to pursue a career in medicine, she has testified at Congressional hearings at least 10 times.

She has traveled to the nation's capital to speak on the many various issues of health insurance and medical ethics, while maintaining a busy practice as a family physician and program director for the Brazos Valley Family Practice Program at Texas A&M University. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Dickey has displayed conviction and concern for the practicing of medicine, expending tremendous energy on every endeavor she undertakes. That is why I believe it is truly fitting that she will soon be sworn in as president of the AMA, since she will be able to use that energy to lead an organization of more than 700,000 of our country's most gifted and influential doctors.

Dr. Dickey hails from Watertown, South Dakota and is a resident of College Station, but her vision and passion encompass the entire country and reflects her commitment to represent all of America's doctors and address the problems and challenges that both doctors and patients face.

Mr. Speaker, in her youth, she faced the problems and challenges of a time when women were not encouraged to pursue the goal of entering medical school. She was once told by a high school counselor that she could not be both a doctor and a mother. I experienced the same subtle discouragement which actually steered me toward a nursing degree and not into medical school. However, Dr. Dickey chose to ignore the discouragement and focused even more on her goal and task at hand; entering medical school and successfully pursue a career in medicine. Those times for both of us have changed for the better, but she continues today to inspire other young women to enter the field.

Mr. Speaker, as a Registered Nurse who encourages young women to pursue a career in medicine, I am appreciative of Dr. Dickey's efforts in heightening the self-esteem of young women and encouraging them to pursue careers as doctors or any other profession.

Mr. Speaker, I believe her future as president, as well as the AMA's future, will be bright and successful. As she assumes leadership of the AMA, I am convinced that her tenacity, energy, expertise and sincere concern for her profession will benefit that organization, America's doctors and their patients. I congratulate her in advance as she prepares to take office in June, and I wish her the best of luck.

ANNETTE LANTOS PAYS TRIBUTE TO RAOUL WALLENBERG

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Annette Lantos, the wife of our colleague Congressman TOM LANTOS of California has been a leading advocate for the Hungarian Holocaust hero, Raoul Wallenberg. Well before her husband was elected to Congress, Annette had established the International Free Wallenberg Committee to press Soviet authorities to release the Swedish humanitarian from prison. Much of the credit for bringing the tragic plight of Wallenberg to international and particularly to American consciousness has been the result of her work.

On February 8, Mr. Speaker, Annette Lantos delivered a Tribute to Raoul Wallenberg at a special meeting of the Sydney Australia, chapter of WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organization), the non-party voluntary charitable women's organization which is similar to the organization Hadassah here in the United States. I have received reports of her exceptional presentation, and I ask that her recent address be placed in the RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO RAOUL WALLENBERG (By Annette Lantos)

Fifty-four years ago, on March 19, 1944, as the Nazi's campaign of terror and genocide finally overtook our native land of Hungary, a young idealistic Swede made his way to Budapest to interpose his own frail body between the Nazi war machine and the persecuted, unarmed thousands facing deportation and annihilation in Auschwitz.

By the time Raoul Wallenberg arrived to Budapest, 500,000 Jews from the Hungarian countryside had already been taken to Auschwitz where most perished. But Raoul

Wallenberg's arrival to Budapest delayed the execution of the death sentence upon the remaining 300,000 Jews of the cities long enough to enable some 100,000 of them—including my husband Tom and myself—to survive. It is on their behalf, and behalf of their children and their grandchildren that my husband, Tom, and I have dedicated many years of our lives to make Wallenberg's story known, and to honor this great man.

When I began my work for Wallenberg in 1975, I had two goals in mind. First and foremost, I wanted to free him from the horrors of the Gulag where he was languishing—by that time for over 30 years. The second goal was to make Raoul Wallenberg's life and accomplishments penetrate the consciousness of mankind and to inspire all those who are touched by his story to become better, more unselfish, more caring human beings, willing to transcend the barriers of race, religion, or nationality in their concern for others.

Raoul Wallenberg taught us two major things. First, he taught us that a single individual committed to a noble goal can achieve miracles. Second, he taught us that human rights are indivisible, that it is not enough just to be concerned simply with our own human rights.

As Jews or Catholics, Australians of Hungarians or Americans, the only relevant concern for human rights that deserves respect is a concern that transcends religion and race and color and national origin. Raoul Wallenberg did not go to Budapest in 1944 to save Lutheran Swedes. He went there to save Hungarian Jews, with whom he had nothing in common except his common humanity. Raoul Wallenberg not only fought evil, but he also fought indifference, and indifference is the twin of evil. Those who kill are murderers, but those who stand by and do nothing in the face of murder share a complicity in crime. Wallenberg's message was loud and clear. We must fight evil, but just as hard we must fight indifference.

Most of you have heard the story of Wallenberg. He started out issuing Swedish passports to all who managed to reach him at the Swedish legation in Budapest. He brilliantly negotiated with the Nazis and later the Arrow Cross gangsters (Hungarian Fascists) who ran Hungary in the final few months of the German occupation, until they recognized the validity of these fictional documents and exempted their owners from deportation and having to wear the yellow star.

He bought or leased 32 large apartment houses and succeeded in declaring them Swedish territory in Hungary. Thousands of people were crowded into these protected houses, many of whom he brought back personally from the forced marches heading toward the death camps. He rushed the saved persons to the protected Swedish houses in Budapest. He even brought people back from the railroad cars, pulling them out of deportation trains, and from the banks of the Danube river. He interposed his own body between the fallen victims and the machine guns that were leveled at them by the Arrow Cross guards.

When the Russians finally liberated Budapest in January 1945, he believed he was finally safe, and went to their headquarters to report and ask for food and medicine for the surviving victims. The Soviets didn't believe his story. They were convinced that he was an American spy. They kidnaped him on January 17, 1945, and he languished in the Soviet Gulag until 1981, when I personally believe that he finally died still in a Soviet prison.

Even today, people ask me whether I think Raoul Wallenberg still lives. I personally do not believe that he is physically alive anymore, but I do believe that in the spiritual

sense Wallenberg is more alive than most of us who are still around living our ordinary, day-to-day lives.

He is more alive than most of us, because of what he has done. He not only saved lives, but he saved our faith in humanity. He continues every day to touch the lives of thousands of young people the world over, who, hearing or reading his story, testify that they have been inspired to become better human beings and to dedicate themselves to fight for the right of others who are still persecuted and oppressed all over the world.

I would like to share with you tonight the writing of one of these young people who has been inspired by Wallenberg. The letter I am about to read to you was written by my granddaughter Chelsea Swett at age 10, on the occasion of the dedication of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. This truly magnificent museum, a considerable portion of which was paid for by successful Holocaust survivors in America, is not only a memorial to honor those who were consumed in the flames of the Holocaust, but it is intended as a warning to future generations of Americans of the consequences of unbridled racism, religious intolerance and national hatreds.

The exhibits at the Holocaust Museum not only highlight the brutality and callous disregard for human life, but they also reflect the occasional heroic willingness of non-Jews to risk their lives in order to save another fellow human being. I am also very grateful that we succeeded in passing an Act of Congress to rename the street upon which the U.S. Holocaust Museum is located as Raoul Wallenberg Place.

It is most significant that in addition to the permanent exhibition at the museum there is a special exhibit entitled "Remember the Children," which commemorates the more than one million children who died in the Holocaust. This special exhibit also provides a presentation aimed at children so that they can understand the experience of children who suffered in the Holocaust. It is in connection with the special exhibit "Remember the Children" on the occasion of the dedication of the U.S. Holocaust Museum that my granddaughter Chelsea read the following letter:

DEAR MR. RAOUL WALLENBERG: I have wanted to write you a letter for a long time. My grandparents told about you all the time. They tell me stories about how you saved hundreds of thousands of people in Hungary from the Nazis and their concentration camps.

You are a hero. Sometimes I think and wonder what happened to you. Grandfather says that it has been almost fifty years since anyone has heard from you. Still, no one can forget what you did and how brave you were.

My grandparents told me that you were very shy and modest. I can't believe that you were ever shy. My grandparents have told me how tough and strong you were against the Nazis. They said that, representing Sweden, you would walk up to people on their way to the camps and with a handful of fake passports, you would hand them out and say, "Of course you're Swedish. Here's your passport," and you'd take them away to safety. You had houses where you would hide these people and they were safe because you flew the Swedish flag over the homes. My grandparents said that you even went onto the death trains and pulled people into safety. Most of all you are my hero because you saved my grandparents. You gave my grandfather a passport so he could escape the Nazis in Hungary. My grandfather is now a Congressman in the United States and he will never forget what you did for him and thousands of others. He worked to pass a law