

their lives. They are focused on helping their child get better, and feel better. They want to do everything possible to bring a smile to the face of their child.

The Lexington Dream Factory has helped those smiles appear. Since it was organized in 1988, it has granted over 350 dreams, bringing laughter and joy to the faces of these critically-ill children, and to the faces of their families. Dreams have ranged from Disney World family vacations, to shopping sprees at local stores.

I want to salute the Dream Factory and offer my best wishes to all the families gathering on March 28th. I'm hopeful this reunion will prove to be a celebration of life, remembering those children who are no longer with us and giving strength to those who are fighting to get well.

#### SCIENCE IS THE FOUNDATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 1998*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, strong math and science curricula is crucial to our American youths' education. The results of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) shows that American high school seniors rank near the bottom in math and science education when compared to their international counterparts. In addition, there are 346,000 unfilled information technology jobs nationwide. In each of our districts, there is a lack of skilled professionals for information technology jobs particularly related to the lack of specialized math, science, and technology high school curriculum.

In order to solve both of these problems, I am introducing The Information Technology Partnership Act. This bill creates a partnership between Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and local businesses to provide a sound math, science, and technology curriculum coupled with college internships and scholarships through the National Science Foundation. The Information Technology Partnership Act creates an additional grant program through the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Urban Systemic Initiative (USI) Program. The USI Program focuses primarily on math and science by using mentor teachers to help educators introduce an innovative and engaging math and science curriculum to K-12 students in the inner city.

This "IT Partnership" grant is aimed at improving scientific and mathematical literacy of all students in urban communities while fostering a student's career in the information technology field. This partnership consists of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and local businesses investing in the educational development of the youth in their district. The specialized curriculum and scholarships would assist students in filling future information technology jobs. Specifically, the "IT Partnership" grant focuses on math and science curricula for students in grades 10-12, and offers internships and scholarship opportunities for students ma-

joring in fields related to information technology.

Under the NSF's USI Program, eligibility for the "IT Partnership" grant is limited to the cities with the largest number of school-age children (ages 5 to 17) living in economic poverty, as determined by the 1990 census. The following cities are eligible for this grant: Atlanta, Baltimore, Bayamon, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Detroit, El Paso, Fresno, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, New Orleans, New York City, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Ponce, San Antonio, San Diego, San Juan, and St. Louis.

This grant awards five LEAs \$300,000 to develop math and science, and technology curricula for grades 10-12, and to train teachers in technology. In order for LEAs to win this grant, they must enter into a partnership with businesses in their community. These businesses would commit to provide to LEAs, at a minimum, internships, scholarships, mentoring programs, and computer products. Local businesses would promise a LEA scholarship money which would be awarded to high school seniors who will be majoring in fields associated with information technology (math, computer science, engineering) at 2-year or 4-year colleges. The partnership between the LEAs and local business sponsors would determine the amount and number of scholarships given.

It is important to note that the LEAs will have direct responsibility for overseeing the program. NSF's role is limited to determining which five (5) cities meet the criteria for eligibility. The NSF Director will award the "IT Partnership" grants to the 5 cities with the best package of business sponsorship and curricula development. In addition, priority will be given to LEAs which grant scholarships to students who are first generation college students, have a strong desire to pursue a career in the information technology field, show scholastic achievement, and submit teacher recommendations.

In addition to the NSF's USI's reporting guidelines, a longitudinal study will be submitted to Congress after four years from the awarding of the grant.

**DOBROSLAV PARAGA**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to acknowledge the efforts of Dobroslav Paraga, a political opposition leader from Croatia, to bring about democratic and human rights reforms in his country. As our colleagues are probably aware, we recently introduced a resolution, H. Res. 375, expressing our concern about repression by the Government of Croatia of these rights. In 1989, Mr. Paraga met with Members of both Chambers of the Congress and as a result S. Res. 169, calling for respect of human rights throughout the former Yugoslavia, passed the Senate and a companion resolution, H. Res. 240 was introduced in the House.

Mr. Paraga has been an eloquent spokesman for the rights of the citizens of Croatia and we, in the Congress, respect his commitment and courage. As a result of his efforts, he has been the target of harassment, political trials and several suspicious assassination attempts. Soon Mr. Paraga will be returning to his home in Zagreb and we will be monitoring his treatment by the Croatian government. We are inserting a statement by Attorney Joseph A. Morris, who successfully represented Mr. Paraga as co-counsel in the trial that followed his last visit to the Congress in 1993. Attorney Morris is a former Assistant Attorney General of the United States and is President of the Midwest Region of B'nai B'rith in the United States. We believe Members will be interested in his statement which follows:

#### STATEMENT OF JOSEPH A. MORRIS<sup>1</sup> ON POLITICAL LIBERTY IN CROATIA AND THE CASE OF DOBROSLAV PARAGA

In 1993,<sup>1</sup> in association with Zvonimir Hodak, barrister and counselor at law of Zagreb, Croatia, I accepted the defense of Dobroslav Paraga, then a Member of the Croatian Parliament and President of the Croatian Party of Rights, which was then the largest opposition party in the Republic of Croatia, against charges tantamount to an indictment for treason. The case was tried before a military court in Zagreb.

Although the case of *Military Public Prosecutor v. Paraga* resulted in a happy outcome—Mr. Paraga was acquitted—I nonetheless remain concerned, now more than four years later, about the chilling effect that the mere bringing of the case has had upon freedoms of speech and association in Croatia. The development of strong democratic institutions and traditions depends upon the establishment of a free and robust political life, including competing political parties and open political debate. Objective observers must register dismay at the lack of progress in such development in Croatia.

Mr. Paraga, then 33, married and the father of three young children, has been charged with speaking publicly, within and without Croatia, to the "embarrassment" of the President of the Croatian Republic, Franjo Tudjman. Mr. Paraga had excoriated the Tudjman regime's participation in "ethnic cleansing" directed at Serbs and Moslems within Croatia and at Moslems in Bosnia. He called for Croatia to respect the individual human rights of its residents and neighbors, irrespective of their religious and ethnic backgrounds and national and political allegiances. He condemned the regime, dominated by former communists, for dragging its feet in building Croatia's free-market economy. Some of these charges derived from a speech that Mr. Paraga gave to the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Identical charges against Mr. Paraga were dismissed in 1992 by Croatia's civilian courts. The Supreme Court of Croatia ultimately ordered Mr. Paraga's release from the "interrogation jail" where he had been held by the regime during the pendency of his case. Two days later President Tudjman removed the Chief Justice of Croatia from office. The regime thereafter constituted a special military tribunal in Zagreb for the purpose of hearing the same charges against Mr.

Paraga, a civilian, and three of his colleagues in the leadership of what was then known as the Croatian Party of Rights.

The case put seriously in question the claim of the Republic of Croatia to stand as a nation constituted under the rule of law. The prosecution posed grave threats to universal principles of human rights, particularly these fundamental freedoms and basic elements of the due process of law: Freedoms of speech, association, and assembly; Independence of the judiciary; Supremacy of civilian authority over the military; Prohibition against double jeopardy (that is, freedom from being put to trial more than once for the same offense).

I was especially troubled by highly irregular procedural characteristics of this prosecution of Mr. Paraga. The dismissal of the chief judge of Croatia's highest court in the immediate aftermath of that court's previous decision favorable to Mr. Paraga was, and remains, profoundly suspect. The chief prosecutor in the military prosecution was simultaneously a national party leader, an active officer in the Croatian military, a military prosecutor, and a special public defender. The prosecution was surrounded by invidious references to the ethnic and religious backgrounds of Mr. Paraga and his family.

Mr. Paraga, a Roman Catholic, is the grandson of a Jew. He has been disparaged in the government-controlled media of Croatia both as a Jew and as an antisemite. He has been characterized as both a former communist and as a secret fascist. I have met with and interviewed Mr. Paraga and have studied his platform, speeches, and writings. I have interviewed others, both Croatian and American, who know him well. I am satisfied that Mr. Paraga is genuinely committed to principles of human rights, individual liberty, the rule of law, free-market economics, and limited, constitutional government.

Since the successful conclusion of the military trial, the Croatian Government has continued to harass Mr. Paraga and his party and has repeatedly attempted to silence them. Twice, by administrative fiat, the regime has removed Mr. Paraga from the leadership of his party, installed other leaders with loyalty to the regime, deprived his party of its assets, and denied effective judicial review of these actions. Although Croatia has since acceded to European conventions on human rights, these actions occurred at a time when European human rights agencies and tribunals did not have jurisdiction to inquire into, or redress, them. It remains to be seen whether or not the Croatian Government will continue its efforts to suppress legitimate political activity by Mr. Paraga and others and, if so, whether or not Europe's human rights institutions prove effective in safeguarding political liberty in Croatia. Meanwhile, Mr. Paraga has established a new political party, known as the "Croatian Party of Rights—1861", taking the name, and recalling the year of foundation, of Croatia's oldest domestic political party. Furthermore, there is a disturbing trend over the past few years by the Croatian government to use administrative courts to replace heads of democratically elected parties. The method is simple, the party is registered as being headed by someone who is favored by the ruling party. The government should return democratically elected leaders of Parliamentary parties who were removed by administrative measures.

Americans look forward to welcoming Croatia with open arms as a full-fledged member of the democratic family of nations. To claim that birthright, however, Croatia must demonstrate that it has established a government of laws and not of men. Americans of all parties, ethnic backgrounds, and religious traditions will continue to monitor political and human rights developments in Croatia. We hope that, in due course, the people of Croatia will be blessed with a meaningful legal and constitutional system.

<sup>1</sup> Joseph A. Morris is a member of the Chicago law firm of Morris, Rathnau & De La Rosa. From 1981 through 1988 he served in senior legal positions in the administration of President Ronald Reagan, including as Chief of Staff and General Counsel of the United States Information Agency, as Director (with the rank of Assistant Attorney General of the United States) of the Office of Liaison Services of the Department of Justice, and as a United States delegate to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights at Geneva. He also served from 1981 through 1996, during the administrations of Presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton, on the Administrative Conference of the United States. He was the founder and first Chairman of the Center for Public Policy of B'nai B'rith International, the world's oldest and largest Jewish organization, and is currently the President of the Midwest Region of B'nai B'rith in the United States.

#### FANNIE MAE'S FOUR YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ITS TRILLION DOLLAR COMMITMENT TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

#### HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 1998

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee, I congratulate Fannie Mae on the four-year anniversary of its Trillion Dollar Commitment to improving our nation's housing. In 1994, Fannie Mae Chairman and CEO Jim Johnson announced that by the end of the year 2000 the company would provide a trillion dollars in targeted housing finance to serve families with incomes below the median, minorities and new immigrants, families who live in central cities, rural areas and distressed communities and people with special housing needs. This effort is intended to help 10 million additional families attain the American dream of homeownership.

In order to achieve this goal, Fannie Mae is creating new products, breaking down financial and informational barriers to homeownership, reaching out to new partners and making the elimination of discrimination the number one priority of the housing finance industry. Fannie Mae has opened 29 partnership offices to assist with these efforts. Lenders, realtors, homebuilders, mortgage insurers, non-profits and others in the housing industry have joined Fannie Mae in this successful effort which already has helped 5.6 million families achieve the dream of homeownership and which has provided \$440 billion in housing finance.

Recently, Fannie Mae announced two new programs that are having a positive impact on the affordable housing needs in my district. Fannie Mae's initiatives not only encourage homeownership but also promote revitalization of cities through loans that provide for renovation of homes in high-cost urban areas. These programs, Homestyle Remodeler and Flexible 97, allow homeowners and homebuyers to borrow money for renovation and rehabilitation of their homes. Homestyle Remodeler is being tested exclusively on Long Island, and Flexible 97 is being tested around the country, including on Long Island.

Again, congratulations to Fannie Mae and its partners on a successful four years and I wish them even greater success in the years ahead. This initiative is making a major impact on communities across the nation as the following letters from Mayors indicate.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,

Kansas City, MO., March 2, 1998.

James A. Johnson,  
Chairman and CEO, Fannie Mae,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow me to congratulate and commend you and Fannie

Mae on the leadership you have provided to make homeownership and affordable housing available to Kansas City families as part of the Trillion Dollar Commitment.

The \$650 million Kansas City Investment Plan and the opening of the Partnership Office has provided for significant additional opportunities in the furtherance of affordable housing. These efforts have been multifaceted and done in partnership as you have worked with city and state governments, non-profits, lenders, developers and other housing advocates to achieve this goal.

Through it, you have provided for the \$12.8 million rehabilitation of the 455 unit Royal Woods Apartments, formerly known as Hanover in the Woods and the current \$5.7 million rehabilitation of the 450 unit President's Gardens.

Your \$400,000 community development financial investment into Douglass National Bank, a minority owned lender, characterizes your strong commitment to housing and lending opportunities to minority families as does the 8.7% increase in minority homebuyers assisted under your investment plan.

We are especially pleased by the many single family mortgage products that have been developed for the Kansas City market including our partnership around the Police in Neighborhoods project. Creating homeownership assistance opportunities to foster the purchase of homes in our community by the members of the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department is something that I am most proud. A member of my security detail, Marlon Buie, and his family purchased such a home and they are featured in your new One Trillion Dollar Commitment Report publication.

The development of the Kansas City Homeownership Counseling Collaborative, to allow for the expansion of homeownership education for Kansas City families is another example of your work in this city.

These are only some of the activities engaged by Fannie Mae in Kansas City but they provide clear evidence of the undeniable, positive impact that Fannie Mae is having here and around the country on housing finance.

We value the relationship we have with Fannie Mae and wish to congratulate you on the success achieved under the Trillion Dollar Commitment and we look forward to continuation of this partnership.

Sincerely,

Emanuel Cleaver II.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,

Hartford, CT, March 4, 1998.

JAMES A. JOHNSON,  
Chairman, Fannie Mae,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR JIM: I'm writing to congratulate you and Fannie Mae on the work you've done and on the celebration of the fourth anniversary of your Trillion Dollar Commitment. I would like to commend Fannie Mae on its leadership and diligent pursuit of meeting the goals you set forth to make homeownership and affordable housing available to so many more families.

I would further commend you on your efforts here in Hartford. My administration has worked in concert with your Hartford Partnership Office since you opened the office in early 1995. Hartford is on the rebound and homeownership and rebuilding neighborhoods has been a critical ingredient. The HouseHartford program which we created jointly has helped over 110 families become homeowners in our City during the past year and one-half. The program is broadly seen as a huge success evidenced by the increase in dollars the City has committed to providing downpayment assistance. Perhaps more importantly, we have seen a marked rise in the number of minority households achieving homeownership status which should make a dramatic impact in the health of our neighborhood over time. I understand that Fannie Mae has been instrumental in building the reach and capacity of the homeownership