

Dr. Bergen is recognized as a national authority on health care and a prominent leader in academic medicine in the State and in the nation.

It is fitting and proper that the members of Congress salute Dr. Bergen's exemplary career and service to New Jersey and the nation. His high standard of excellence in education, research and patient care have brought pride and honor to our State.

We wish him well in the years ahead and hope that he will continue to serve as a valuable resource to New Jersey and the nation.

TRIBUTE TO GAINESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in December of 1997 I had the honor of speaking to the Gainesville Fire Department at their annual Christmas banquet. Since that time, I have visited informally with Steve R. Boone, the highly regarded Fire Chief of the Gainesville Fire Department, Capt. Wally Cox, Training Officer, and Lt. David Tharp, Fire Safety Education Officer. I am impressed by their dedication and commitment to public service.

One of the main goals of the Gainesville Fire Department is to provide educational programs on fire safety. The Department accomplishes this by presenting programs in the local school systems as well as community events, sponsoring industrial training sessions, and making presentations to civic clubs. Ninety percent of their funding for fire safety education is received through donations from the community—evidence of the support that the Department receives from local citizens.

The Gainesville Fire Department has chosen to take a proactive approach to fire prevention and safety, rather than just a reactive one. Their efforts undoubtedly will help save lives and property. In the past, the Gainesville Fire Department has been recognized for their efforts by local groups, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, insurance companies, and other entities. Senator PHIL GRAMM also has recognized their commitment to serving the citizens of Cooke County.

Mr. Speaker, too often we take for granted the efforts of those who place their own lives at risk for their fellow citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an outstanding group of public servants—the Gainesville Fire Department—and to other firemen across our great nation whose dedication to the prevention of fires and injuries deserves our gratitude and respect.

TRIBUTE TO HAZEL WOLF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Hazel Wolf. On Saturday, March 21, 1998, hundreds of her friends will gather in Seattle celebrating her 100th birthday and giving thanks for her life-

time of dedication to the environment and human rights.

Born in Victoria, British Columbia on March 10, 1898, Hazel emigrated to the United States in 1923 as a single mother seeking work to support her young daughter, eventually becoming a legal secretary. Hazel officially became a citizen in 1976 after devoting more than 50 years to making our country a better place to live.

Through the years Hazel championed issues of importance for women, working people, human rights, and the environment. A true citizen of the world, her work has been recognized with awards by numerous international, state, and local organizations. On Saturday the Seattle Audubon Society will acknowledge the "rare bird" by announcing the creation of the Hazel Wolf Kids for the Environment Endowment. This fund will be dedicated to helping urban youth experience and appreciate nature, a lasting tribute to a woman who cherishes our nation's young people and loves the beauty of our natural world.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Hazel for demonstrating to us the value of a simple life adorned with the riches of a lifetime of service to humanity and nature. We wish her continuing vigor in pursuit of future endeavors.

CROATIAN POLICE ATTACK PROTESTORS AT PEACEFUL TRADE UNION RALLY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I am sharing with my colleagues various newspaper articles related to a recent peaceful rally in which protestors were attacked by Croatian police. It was reported in the Federal Tribune that there were between 12,000 to 14,000 policemen from throughout Croatia brought in to control an estimated 10,000 to 30,000 protestors. The rally was organized by the largest trade union in Croatia and several opposition political parties. The reported focus of the rally were issues of high unemployment and poor living conditions for workers and retirees, while at the same time it has been reported that Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman has amassed a considerable fortune for himself and his family. I am also inserting into the RECORD an informative article released this week by Jack Anderson and Jan Moller entitled, "Croatian Seeks To End Human-Rights Abuses."

[From BBC News, Feb. 21, 1998]

CROATIAN POLICE DENY DEMO INJURIES

The Croatian Interior Ministry has denied reports that police used force against demonstrators during a mass protest in the capital Zagreb.

Tens of thousands of people took part in what is described as the largest rally the nation has seen, against growing poverty and unemployment.

The government banned the demonstration from main city square, Ban Jelacic square, deploying hundreds of police with riot gear to prevent the crowd from gaining access.

Protesters threw apples and eggs at officers and a shop window was shattered.

An Interior Ministry statement, carried by the official news agency HINA, contradicted

Croatian radio and TV reports that several people were being treated in hospital for injuries.

Five police staff were also reported injured.

The demonstration was organized by three trade unions and backed by 10 opposition parties.

Correspondents say about 10,000 protesters moved to Marshall Tito square, also known as Theatre Square, where they held an hour-long meeting.

The head of the Croatian Workers Trade Union, Boris Kunst, said he was saddened that the Croatian police had raised their hands against the protesters.

"These people that gathered here are those who defended Croatia," he said. "But they cannot live off their salaries, while the others are decorating their palaces and are stealing from us."

Protesters called on ministers to reduce their own salaries and scrap the newly-introduced 22% value added tax which has seen prices increase on basic goods including food.

Correspondents say Croats have been reluctant to demonstrate against the government, lead by President Franco Tudjman, since the country achieved independence through a devastating war in 1991.

But dissatisfaction among citizens is mounting as the majority of them face post-war poverty.

An unemployment rate, which independent analysts say tops 23%, is at the center of public grievances.

As the rate rises a new wealthy elite, consisting mainly of businessmen favored by the government or ruling party members, has emerged.

VECERNJI LIST—MARCH 18, 1998

ZAGREB. President of the United American Trade Union headquarters AFL-CIO John J. Sweeney sent a letter to the President of the Republic of Croatia Franjo Tudjman protesting confiscation of the trade union's property. Mr. Sweeney appealed to the government of Croatia that it was urgent that they change their position and rescind their orders under the "law of unions" in relation to the trade union's property, and withdraw their decision about nationalization of the trade union's property, declared the International Department of the Association of the Independent Trade Unions in Croatia, the largest association of trade unions in Croatia.

DIE TAGESZEITUNG—FEBRUARY 24, 1998

BERLIN, Federal Republic of Germany. At the peaceful rally in Zagreb, which was organized by the Association of Workers' Unions and several political opposition parties, on Friday, February 20th in the capital of Croatia, Zagreb, were tens of thousands of people who protested against social and economic policy and unemployment. The target of this protest was Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and the government of the ruling party, HDZ, who were proclaimed responsible for the poor living conditions of workers, retirees and unemployed persons. People shouted "Tudjman is Sadam" and "All of you are thieves". People were angry and resisting the selling of many factories to leading members of HDZ for symbolic money and that the current value of the private property of the President and his family is more than \$1 billion.

DIE PRESSE—FEBRUARY 28, 1998

VIENNA, Austria. A Press Correspondent from Zagreb reported that President of Croatia, Dr. Franjo Tudjman has property of several billion dollars in German marks and this was the reason for the large workers' demonstration in Zagreb's streets. It is very

important that the trade unions want to change policy through their demonstrations.

CROATIAN SEEKS TO END HUMAN-RIGHTS ABUSES

(By Jack Anderson and Jan Moller)

When Dobroslov Paraga rallied his fellow Croats for change in 1991, he could get only a few hundred supporters to publicly protest Croatian President Franjo Tudjman's regime.

Seven years later, close to 15,000 of Paraga's countrymen routinely crowd the city squares in discontent over the civil rights violations and declining economic fortunes that have befallen Croatia under Tudjman's watch. One-fourth of all Croats are currently unemployed.

"Before, people were afraid to speak out against the government," Paraga told our associate Kathryn Wallace. "Now they are hungry."

Conditions were supposed to improve when the communist government toppled in 1990 and democracy prevailed.

But Paraga tells us the new government is still communist, albeit disguised as a social democracy.

A 1997 State Department report agrees with this assessment, referring to the government as "authoritarian" and Tudjman's recent re-election as "fundamentally flawed."

"The president serves as head of state and commander of the armed forces, chairs the influential National Defense and Security Council, appoints the prime minister who leads the government, and approves senior appointments in local government," the report states.

"Government influence circumscribes and weakens the judiciary. This, combined with the extensive constitutional powers of the presidency, the overwhelming dominance of the (Croatian Democratic Union, Tudjman's party), its absolute control of television, and the continuing concentration of power within the one-party central government, makes Croatia's nominally democratic system in reality authoritarian."

It also grants the government the ability to violate human rights as it sees fit.

The tall, rumpled Paraga doesn't look the part of a patriot or a politician. Yet in the last decade he's been arrested and jailed in his own country as well as in Austria and Canada for what the Croatian government calls "high treason" and "terrorist acts."

Paraga's offense? He was the president on the Croatian Party of Rights 1861, espousing such radical views as freedom of the press and an equitable separation of powers between the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government. A 1993 visit to Washington to raise awareness of human rights violations in his homeland led to his removal from the legislature. The government's reason: "Dissemination of false information" to incite rebellion.

"Our neighbors have freedom, but we stay at the same place," Paraga told us. "I have lost 28 friends in car bombs and assassinations, (and) I have been imprisoned. I have lost fear."

While Paraga has been outspoken of the offenses of his government—assigning responsibility for the assassinations of 28 officials of his party to Tudjman's group—he disavows any violent or terrorist activities.

He is in the United States now at the invitation of recently retired Rep. Ronald V. Dellums, D-Calif., the ranking member of the House National Security Committee, to help draft a human rights resolution—which, if passed, would be the first official policy statement by the United States about the government of Croatia.

It's not the first time that Paraga has sought congressional help in his freedom fight. He first came to our attention nearly a decade ago, in 1989, when Croatia was still part of communist Yugoslavia. Then a 28-year-old dissident, he had already been in five prisons for a total of four years, the first time being when he was only 19.

In 1980 he and his friend Ernest Brajder were thrown in jail for circulating a petition opposing torture in Yugoslavia. Paraga came out alive, but Brajder did not. After three days in jail, he was dead in what the U.S. State Department admitted were "mysterious circumstances."

Back in 1989, Paraga made the rounds on Capitol Hill, as he has this month, explaining the plight of those who dared stand up to the Croatian authorities. The Senate believed Paraga and passed a resolution with plenty of "whereas" and "therefore" language. It had no binding effect on anyone, but it nevertheless made headlines in Yugoslavia.

One again, Paraga is hoping that a congressional resolution will help prod the Croatian government into loosening its iron-fisted grip on power and information. He told us that his party, disbanded by the government, nonetheless has the support of as much as 80 percent of young people in Croatia.

After nearly a decade of war and political turmoil, it's high time that Croatia gets back on the road toward free markets and respect for human rights. If a congressional resolution can help bring this about, we urge Congress to act without delay.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND THE WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill today that would correct a mistakenly drawn boundary between the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and the Wenatchee National Forest.

This measure would move the boundary that divides one land owner's property into two different federal jurisdictions, the National Park Service and the National Forest Service. While the land owner was originally assured that his property was located completely within the Wenatchee National Forest, it is now apparent that due to an error in the original boundary designation, that only part of his property is so designated. This bill would retroactively change this oversight to the original intent.

IN MEMORY OF OREE WOODS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to someone I had the privilege of meeting just last November—Oree Lea Woods of Sadler, Texas—who died on January 19 at his residence after a long illness. He was 79 years old. Although I knew

Oree only two short months, I felt that I had known him all my life.

I had the opportunity to visit Oree and his wife, Jean, at the invitation of CASHA Resource Home Health Services. This was one of several home health visits that I made during our winter break. I have long been a supporter of home health services as a member of the Health and Environment Subcommittee of the Commerce Committee, and it was good to see how much these services meant to Oree. Oree had experienced continued health problems during the past two years and had been a home health patient for two months when I met him. He and Jean had high praise for this service and were grateful to have this health assistance during Oree's recuperation period.

Oree was a World War II veteran and a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He served for three years as Mayor of Sadler, was a retired metal lather, and was a member of the First Baptist Church. He was married to his wife, Jean, for 57 years, and they have a son, Kimsey Woods, a daughter, Karen Whitmire, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Because of home health care, I was able to visit with Oree and Jean in the comfort of their home, where we swapped many stories about family, childhood escapades, school, World War II experiences, and health care. I came away from our visit feeling that I had truly had a chance to get to know Oree—an experience that I think would not have been possible outside the home environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of home health services in enhancing the quality of life for thousands of patients throughout our nation. As we adjourn today, it is a privilege for me to pay tribute to the late Oree Lea Woods—a man who lived his life in devotion to his wife, his family, his community, and his country.

ANNOUNCING THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REDUCE THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY MARCH 19, 1998

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today Representative KLECZKA and I are introducing legislation to reduce the marriage tax penalty for most Americans.

The marriage penalty reduction legislation I am introducing with Representative KLECZKA (D-WI) simply would increase the standard deduction for joint filers so that it equals twice that of single filers. The standard deduction in tax year 1997 is \$6,900 for joint returns and \$4,150 for single returns. Two singles get a combined standard deduction of \$8,300 compared to \$6,900 for a couple—thus penalizing the couple for getting married. In my view, increasing the standard deduction for joint filers is the simplest, fairest, easiest, and most fiscally responsible way in which to address the structural marriage tax penalties within the code.

As you can see from the attached charts to be inserted into the record, the fix I proposed last Congress would have eliminated virtually