

Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity to come before you today to speak about the important programs contained in your foreign assistance bill. I am a strong supporter of a number of these programs, including child survival, tuberculosis control and microcredit.

I want to begin by thanking you for your unwavering protection of child survival programs over the past few years. I know that it is thanks to you and this Subcommittee that each year this program has been specifically protected and expanded. Child survival programs provide life-saving vaccinations and micronutrients to millions of needy children in the developing world. I know that I do not have to tell you, Mr. Chairman, that child survival programs mean simple, cost-effective solutions like oral rehydration therapy, which prevents 1.5 million child deaths each year, and five cent capsules of vitamin A, given to children three times a year, which reduce child death rates by as much as twenty-five percent in affected populations. The vaccinations that are funded each year, Mr. Chairman, are a large part of the reason that three million children are immunized from diseases and, therefore, able to escape death. I am aware that you have had to push hard for the protection of child survival programs, and I commend you for your dedication to these children.

I would also like to thank you for expanding your Child Survival and Disease Account by \$50 million in FY98 to include more funding for infectious diseases. I thank you for that increase, because I know how critically important such funding is, especially in terms of our global fight against the disease of tuberculosis.

The spread of TB concerns me, because it is often considered a disease of the poor and a problem of the developing world—and yet, we are all in danger of contracting it. It is on the rise around the world and here in the United States, where it is estimated that fifteen million Americans are infected with the bacteria that causes TB. This city of Washington, D.C. where you and I spend so much of our time, is one of TB's "hot zones" in the United States—and my own district in Southern California is at risk, as people travel back and forth across our international border. With two million people crossing international borders each day, stopping this threat at the border is not a realistic option. This disease is a danger to the health and economic well-being of all Americans, and we must do more to control it.

According to the World Health Organization, infectious diseases cause nearly thirty percent of deaths in poor countries, and they receive only 1.5 percent in foreign aid. I know that you are doing your part to see that the percentage of aid going to infectious diseases is increased. Thanks to your \$50 million "set-aside", the Administration increased its funding for tuberculosis control programs from roughly \$1 million a year to \$15-20 million. This is a significant increase, but I am still concerned that it will be insufficient to keep up with the spread of tuberculosis—and so I urge you to do more. You have my full support for a significant increase in funding within your legislation for tuberculosis control programs for FY99.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support for microcredit programs in the past, and I ask that you expand and specifically protect this successful and proven program in your foreign assistance bill next year. I understand, according to a recent USAID report,

that funding for microcredit has declined between 1994 and 1996. In addition, AID has not achieved a goal that it set for itself in 1994 to spend half of overall microcredit funding on programs serving the poorest people. Only \$42 million went to poverty-targeting of a very reduced overall level of \$111 million for 1996. Given the positive effects of this program on the lives of poor families and poor children, I believe that the United States should be doing more in this area. Just as with the child survival program, however, I think that without your direction, USAID will continue to underprioritize this program which is capable of changing the lives of millions of people. Therefore, I request that you significantly expand and protect this program which does so much for poor families in the developing world.

Thank you for considering these requests as you draft your legislation this year. I appreciate this opportunity to apprise you of my interest in the child survival program, in tuberculosis control, and in microcredit.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF REVEREND DOCTOR C. WILLIAM BLACK

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Texas' great contemporary leaders, the Reverend Doctor C. William Black. On Sunday, May 1, 1998, Dr. Black will officially end nearly 50 years of pastoral service to the Mount Zion First Baptist Church in San Antonio. He is a living testament to the dictum that "one man can make a difference;" he has made a great and positive difference to his church and to the entire community he serves.

Dr. Black is an icon, a preacher with a fiery delivery and a mission of positive change. Neither his mission nor his ministry ends inside the four walls of the historic church building. Dr. Black has taken his message out into the community to lift up the broken hearted and to proclaim the fundamental equality and liberty of all persons.

An African-American born in San Antonio in 1916, Dr. Black learned at an early age that his inalienable right to liberty had not yet become a living reality. He began his quest for freedom for those trapped in post Civil War segregation. The harsh laws of a "separate but equal" society greatly restricted opportunities for African Americans. Even in those dark days of overt discrimination, Dr. Black earned great respect. In his role as minister, he served as the preacher, the civil rights leader, the business leader, and the community leader.

Dr. Black lives up to the high expectations of his community and congregation. He is well educated. He holds a masters degree and two honorary doctoral degrees. He is an Alamo Community College Foundation Board Member and a founder of San Antonio Mothers' Service Organization. Dr. Black initiated this organization, over 50 years ago, to raise money for scholarships to give to deserving students who were not likely to be recognized for their scholastic achievements in a segregated society. He founded the Mount Zion Day Care Center in 1957 in early recognition of the need for quality child care.

Despite racism, he gained a seat on the San Antonio City Council and served with

great distinction. While at that post Dr. Black distinguished himself as the first African American Mayor Pro Tem. The Eastside Y.M.C.A., the Carver Cultural Center, and the Eastside Boys and Girls Club continue to thrive today thanks to his successful battles many years ago. The Eastside Multi-Purpose Center, part of Saint Paul Square, and a street near his church bear the name of this vibrant leader.

In his role as business leader, Dr. Black organized the Mount Zion Federal Credit Union giving his congregation and members of the community access to alternative offerings for automobile loans, other types of loans, and various financial transactions. His concern for the housing needs of his community led Dr. Black to acquire financing for the building of the Mount Zion Sheltering Arms Senior Citizen Complex. In 1984, he organized the New Community builders, a non-profit housing corporation.

Reflecting on Dr. Black's years of leadership and accomplishments I know that his wife ZerNona was always there for him, as a friend, sounding board, consoler and mother of their two children. Ms. ZerNona Black is the epitome of King Solomon's words about the treasured wife. I admire her quiet strength of character, and celebrate with her the many accomplishments she made possible.

We need more leaders like Dr. and Mrs. Black who showed with their actions, and not just their words, how to be good citizens. We need leaders like them who display integrity while forging more paths to accessible education, housing, and economic mobility. We look forward to their continuing mission as drum majors of positive change, understanding, and creativity showing us the way of making our community a better place to live.

HONORING EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Labor Council of Beaver County and their efforts to raise public awareness of the discrimination toward women in the workplace. On April 3, 1998 they will be holding their Equal Pay Day rally to show their support for this important issue.

Equal pay has been the law since 1963, but today, women still receive less pay than men for comparable work. Over the past few decades, women have been given many opportunities for education and employment. They have also made contributions in quite a few career fields that were once almost entirely closed to them. With all the progress women have made, it is truly a tragedy that they are still being discriminated against in terms of equal pay.

The Labor Council of Beaver County is putting forth a great deal of effort in combating this discrimination in the workplace and trying to change the current system of gender inequity in terms of pay. Equal pay is an issue for all working women to address. The current status of their careers and their daughters' future careers depends on a change in the status quo.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to applaud the Labor Council of Beaver County for their efforts in bringing this issue to the public's attention. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the seriousness of this issue and the

efforts of the people fighting against this discrimination.

ILLEGAL FOREIGN
CONTRIBUTIONS ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Illegal Foreign Contributions Act, H.R. 34.

This bill, if enacted, would ban contributions to federal election campaigns by legal permanent residents. I believe this would be a colossal mistake and a constitutional blunder. This bill would restrict the First Amendment free speech rights of Legal Permanent Residents. These residents are required to perform citizenship obligations, such as registering for the military draft and serving in the armed forces, but we would deny them the basic citizenship rights we require them to defend.

Consistently throughout federal constitutional law, Legal Permanent Residents have all First Amendment freedoms of full U.S. citizens. This has been consistently upheld by the federal courts and the Supreme Court. H.R. 34 would deliberately abridge and deny those rights in the name of campaigning finance reform. It would trample on the constitutional rights of hundreds of thousands of people without justification. The bill picks out a specific group of people and says we are going to prevent you from expressing your political views.

This bill is a gag of political expression in the disguise of campaign reform. The reality is that hard-working, tax-paying, military-serving individuals are being told they can have no say over who is elected to determine the policies that determines their fates and lives.

Mr. Speaker, I also fear that legislation that singles out specific groups of people for treatment different than that of citizens will lead us down a road to finding scapegoats when there are failings in our government and society. This is a dangerous precedent, and I urge my colleagues to think carefully before they cast their vote on H.R. 34, and to vote against this ill-conceived "reform".

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, MORRISTOWN,
NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Neighborhood House in Morristown, New Jersey.

The Neighborhood House, known as the "Nabe" among its clients, began in 1898 as a one-room mission dedicated to easing the daily hardships of immigrant life among a growing number of Italian-American families in Morristown. The building housing the mission burned down in 1901, and activities were soon moved to a more spacious, donated home.

The larger accommodations allowed the mission to expand its work, and by 1908, then officially named the Neighborhood House, these activities included tutoring in English, providing help in finding affordable housing, and classes in music, carpentry, and crafts.

While continuing its community outreach with the opening of Morristown's first baby clinic in 1915, the Nabe was also instrumental in the development of several local non-profit organizations. These included such groups as the Urban League of Morris County, the Colonial Little Symphony and the New Jersey Choral Society. By the 1930's, the Neighborhood House expanded its work to accommodate newer immigrant groups that had settled in the Morristown area, and in 1936 there were 46,016 individuals affiliated with the House, a record number at that time.

In 1953, in response to concerns that the House's building was potentially unsafe due to overcrowding, more than \$200,000 was raised for a new building on the original lot. Construction of this building was completed in 1957, and additional renovations have included several new wings, which have vastly increased the space available for classes and other activities.

The Neighborhood House has been blessed with strong and caring leadership since its inception. From 1912 to 1938, the Neighborhood House was run by Aldus and Marie Antoinette Pierson, a couple deeply committed to the community, who oversaw much of the House's expansion in activities. Ten years after the Pierson's retirement in 1938, Carmeta Meade became the House's first African-American Executive Director. Mrs. Meade was among those who recognized the need for a new Neighborhood House building and in 1985, after serving the Neighborhood House for thirty-four years, retired with a sterling record of service.

The Neighborhood House is led today by Sam Singleton, who had been active as a young man for ten years before returning to become Executive Director in 1991. As Mr. Singleton lays the foundation for the Neighborhood House's continued success, ensuring, in his words, that "the Neighborhood House [becomes] a model of the community center of the future," I want to ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues to join with me in commemorating the Neighborhood House on this special anniversary year.

YOUTH TOBACCO POSSESSION
PREVENTION ACT OF 1998

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Youth Tobacco Possession Prevention Act of 1998. I did this because, as we consider the best way to reduce the youth smoking rate, we have neglected one of the most obvious and appropriate solutions—making tobacco possession by people under the age of 18 illegal.

It is estimated that 3,000 young people start smoking every day. Worse yet, one third, or 1,000, of these people will eventually die from tobacco related disease. Consider the emotional and financial strain these horrible situa-

tions will place on American families in the future. In response to this national crisis, the public health community, State attorneys general, the U.S. Congress and even the tobacco industry have proposed a variety of methods to reduce youth smoking rates.

Most of the proposals would spend money on counter advertising, tobacco cessation programs and tobacco education programs—all worthy and necessary components of comprehensive tobacco legislation. However, the leadership of the American government has been sending mixed signals to America's youth and nothing in the proposed settlement would change this.

Under current law, it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18 in all 50 States. However, if a person under the age of 18 is somehow able to obtain tobacco products—which, it is painfully clear, they are easily able to do—there are only a few States that have enacted laws regarding the possession of tobacco by these young people. I find it incredibly hypocritical that we, as a government (either Federal or State), are so willing to make buying tobacco illegal but are virtually silent on possessing tobacco.

Following the lead of my home State of Texas, I have introduced the Youth Tobacco Possession Prevention Act of 1998. This bill would encourage States to pass legislation making it illegal for a person under the age of 18 to possess tobacco.

There are two key components to this bill. First, in dealing with the youth, it focuses on education rather than punishment. For first and second time offenders, youth will be required to complete tobacco education and cessation programs, as well as tobacco related community service. If they continue to disregard the law and their health, their driver's license would be suspended from three to six months. This last resort was suggested during one of our Subcommittee hearings by a local teenager, who told the Commerce Health Subcommittee that kids would only respond to this type of approach.

Second, the bill would require States to enact stern punishments for people over the age of 18 who provide tobacco products to youth. At that same hearing, many of our teen witnesses admitted one of the primary sources of tobacco are older people who buy for teens. This is simply not acceptable. I believe every adult has the responsibility and moral obligation to do whatever we can to prevent our nation's youth from starting this deadly habit.

Unlike many proposals, this bill will not punish States who choose not to enact the outlined legislation. It will, however, reward those States which act responsibly and do. Each State that passes the provisions outlined in this bill will receive 5 additional points on their Health and Human Services competitive public health service grant applications. This incentive will hopefully encourage States to take action and do the right thing.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING
THE IRANIAN WRESTLING
TEAM

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues: