

1980, he received a baccalaureate degree in Electrical Engineering from California State University, Fresno. In 1981, he opened the Thai House, the First Thai restaurant in Fresno. The restaurant has been rated the Best Thai Restaurant for four consecutive years, and three times the "Best Asian Restaurant in the Valley" by the "Fresno Bee". The Thai House employs more than 40 employees. In addition to becoming a successful restaurateur, Mr. Vatanatham has also made a significant contribution to our nation's defense. In 1988, he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1989, he was assigned to six month's active duty in Subic Bay, the Philippines, where he served in Operation Desert Shield. He later served in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia in Desert Storm. Mr. Vatanatham earned the National Defense Medal, the Achievement Commendation Medal, the South West Asian Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal for his military service. On the local front, Mr. Vatanatham has distinguished himself through his charitable work and contributions. He makes year-round contributions to school activities, the Salvation Army, the Cancer Society, AMVETS, the March of Dimes, and the American Heart Association. Now, he volunteers to help build homes for Habitat for Humanity.

Ms. la V. Xiong was born in Highland Laos. She is the third daughter of seven children. Her family immigrated to the United States in 1980 when she was 12 years old. Despite the great number of obstacles that confront Southeast Asian immigrants, Ms. Xiong has distinguished herself by becoming a highly successful role model for the Hmong community and society. In 1992, she became the first Hmong-American woman to become a teacher in the Fresno-Clovis Area. Currently, Ms. Xiong works for Fresno Unified School District as a bilingual advisor. Previously, she worked six years with Clovis Unified School District as an elementary bilingual teacher. At Clovis Unified School District she designed unique bilingual reading materials and developed primary language support programs for first and third-grade Hmong students. Ms. Xiong is credited with developing unique multi cultural learning activities, such as her popular "Story Night" program. In 1987 la V. Xiong published "The Gift: A Hmong New Year." This book has become a popular resource for people wanting to learn more about Hmong culture. Her translation of "How The Farmer Tricked The Evil Demon," has become another favorite among bilingual teachers who work with Hmong students. la V. Xiong is active in community service. She currently serves as a board member for the Fresno Center for New Americans. She is also past President of the Association of California School Administrators, Region IX, and is an active participant of the Hmong Language Institute. Ms. Xiong is married to Chalee Xiong. They are blessed with two young boys, Kien and Vincent.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Dr. Man J. Cha, Dr. Walter Fung, Dr. Toyoko Mae Takahashi, Mr. Sutee Vatanatham, and Ms. la V. Xiong for being recognized as the KSEE 24 and Companies that Care 1998 Portraits of Success Honorees in celebration of Asian-American Heritage Month. I applaud the contributions, ideals, and leadership they have exhibited in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing these fine individuals many more years of success.

VETO PROMISE NOT WARRANTED

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, it seems that the "Mexico City" policy will continue to be an item of contention between the House of Representatives and the Clinton Administration. This Member hopes the President will reconsider his hard-line opposition to the "Mexico City" policy, but that appears unlikely. As demonstrated during the Reagan years, there are family planning organizations which do not perform abortions that can implement the international family planning programs.

Accordingly, this Member commends to his colleagues an excellent editorial which appeared in the Norfolk (Nebraska) Daily News, on May 12, 1998.

VETO PROMISE NOT WARRANTED

ON ABORTION MATTER, UNITED NATIONS POLICY
CONSISTENT WITH REPUBLICANS

Most Americans are accustomed to meeting their obligations, even those made on their behalf by politicians and statesmen with whom they may disagree. The dues payment that the United States provides (or has refused to pay in full in the past) to the United Nations is one of those obligations. The arrears should be paid.

A long battle to reduce the size of that annual assessment, to get the U.N. to be less wasteful and more accountable, was won last year. A compromise was reached, the payment of nearly \$1 billion in back dues has been approved by Congress.

President Clinton, who favors the payment, threatens to veto the bill, however. It is because the Republican majority in Congress succeeded in aiding language to the appropriations bill that would preclude any of the federal funds from being used by international family planning organizations which advocate abortion.

Judging by the slim margin of victory for the measure in the Senate a few days ago (51-49), President Clinton could expect to be sustained in his veto action. That would leave the dues unpaid, of course.

Undesirable as it may be to attach special conditions to this sort of appropriations measure, the president needs to back down. Any one of these three reasons is enough.

1. The United Nations itself has adopted a policy consistent with that which the GOP majority is attempting to emphasize. In 1984, at an international conference related to population control, it affirmed this policy: "Abortion is never to be promoted as a means of family planning."

2. Planned Parenthood and other organizations which are involved in this field have adequate means to promote their own policies without tapping either the resources of the American government or the United Nations.

3. The bitter and unreconcilable divisions in America about when, or if ever, abortion is acceptable, should mean that no money obtained from mandatory tax levies should be used for such procedures unless there is virtually unanimous approval.

That the procedure is legal in America, under a variety of conditions approved by the Supreme Court and set forth in law, does not mean that public funds must follow. Private funding for those who choose abortion should be demanded.

President Clinton should not be allowed to claim that his congressional opponents on the abortion issue are voting, in effect, to pe-

nalize the U.N. by refusing to give him a spending bill without any strings attached. The conditions imposed are not only a valid expression of the congressional majority's views on an important issue related to international affairs, but also consistent with U.N. policy.

U.S. POLICY ON KOSOVO

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the situation in the province of Kosovo in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is tense and volatile. It is getting worse by the day.

The United States and its allies and partners in the contact group are attempting to achieve the right combination of incentives, pressures and sanctions to induce Yugoslav President Milosevic to abandon the use of military force and repression and start a negotiation without preconditions with the leaders of the Kosovo Albanians. The goal of these talks would be a return of the region's former autonomy and a clarification of the future status of the region within Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

At the same time, it is also necessary to make clear to the leaders of the Kosovo Albanians and to the Albanian people of Kosovo in general that the United States and its partners in the contact group do not support independence of Kosovo as a realistic solution to this crisis. It is not at all clear that the people of Kosovo are getting this message as loudly and clearly as they should. This is the emphatic message that visiting Italian Prime Minister Prodi conveyed to the Administration and the Congress during his state visit here last week.

In late March I sent a letter to National Security Advisor Sandy Berger setting forth my policy concerns and suggestions for adjusting U.S. policy in the Kosovo crisis. These suggestions included the need for the Administration to continue to work closely with our allies in the contact group and to state unequivocally and clearly that the United States does not support independence for Kosovo—that a solution for Kosovo must be found consistent with the territorial integrity of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Berger's response to this letter is very helpful in clarifying U.S. policy on this and other key issues involved in the Kosovo problem. Specifically, in the letter Mr. Berger confirms that "... the difficulties in Kosovo cannot be solved through the use of force. We have made it clear that we do not support secession or independence for Kosovo, and that Kosovar Albanians must pursue their legitimate human rights grievances peacefully."

Mr. Speaker, I believe my colleagues will find my exchange of letters with National Security Advisor Berger to be helpful in clarifying Administration policy on Kosovo and in formulating their own views on the continuing crisis in that region. For this reason I am inserting both in the Record at this time. The text follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, May 4, 1998.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEE: Thanks for your ideas regarding our policy on Kosovo. Your thoughts broadly reflect our own approach.

As you suggested, we are working to maintain Contact Group unity and thereby sustain effective pressure on Milosevic. In two meetings in March, Contact Group Ministers outlined the specific steps needed to resolve the situation and agreed on a set of measures, including a UN arms embargo, to apply pressure on Milosevic. We demanded an urgent start to authoritative talks between Belgrade and Kosovar Albanians, and pledged to consider further measures, if needed.

We can only avert continued deterioration in Kosovo and serious risk to regional stability through unified, focused, sustained pressure on the parties, especially Belgrade. Strobe Talbott recently visited key European capitals to build support for further Contact Group action at the April 29 meeting in Rome, and beyond. Our proposed approach includes a balanced mix of incentives and disincentives that deserves the support of all Contact Group nations.

As you also advocate, we have been firm with both parties that the difficulties in Kosovo cannot be solved through the use of force. We have made clear that we do not support secession or independence for Kosovo, and that Kosovar Albanians must pursue their legitimate human rights grievances peacefully. We also have made clear to Milosevic that further acts of repression or disproportionate violence by Serbian security forces will only deepen Belgrade's isolation and strengthen international resolve to take further measures.

I appreciate your thoughts on this important issue, and will count on your advice and assistance on this difficult problem in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL R. BERGER,
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs.

MARCH 31, 1998.

Hon. SAMUEL R. BERGER,

Assistant to the President for National Security
Affairs, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR SANDY: At a recent breakfast Secretary Cohen had with several Members, the subject of Kosovo came up. Following the meeting, I did some thinking on the issue, and I wanted to share with you some policy suggestions concerning the U.S. approach to the crisis in the Kosovo province of Serbia.

The basic policy problem for the United States, working with the Contact Group, has been getting Yugoslav President Milosevic to compromise on Kosovo. We want him to remove his special police units and initiate a serious negotiating process, without preconditions, with leaders of the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo to find a mutually acceptable compromise on the future status of the province.

I understand and support the basic goals of the Administration's policy in Kosovo—a peaceful resolution of the crisis through negotiation resulting in a return of full autonomy for the province. However, it is my impression that the Administration's tactics in support of this policy—pushing for sustained pressure on Milosevic by advocating renewed economic and diplomatic sanctions, and making implied or even direct public threats of possible military action if the Serb crack-down in the province gets harsher—is not a policy that our NATO allies in the Contact Group support. They are urging a cautious and more even-handed approach as the best way to get Milosevic to compromise.

I would suggest that U.S. policy on Kosovo be adjusted to give Milosevic both the incentive and the confidence to compromise:

First, the Administration should not make implied or direct public threats of military action in Kosovo. The use of military force against Serbia has no support among our allies. We are already committed in Bosnia with 8,000 troops on the ground. We need Serbia's cooperation to make Dayton work. Threats to use force lack credibility, and air strikes alone are unlikely to change Serbia's policies on an issue as crucial to it as Kosovo.

U.S. threats to use force will also encourage the Kosovo Liberation Army and others to provoke Serbia, thereby enlisting the U.S. on the side of their separatist agenda.

Second, the Administration should stop comparing the situation in Kosovo to wartime Bosnia. Kosovo, unlike Bosnia, is an integral part of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We could cite international responsibility to help the independent state of Bosnia, but Kosovo is not an independent state, and has no recognition as such. Continued comparisons of Kosovo to Bosnia will only harden Mikosevic's resolve to defy the international community and circle the wagons in his country.

Third, the Administration must state unequivocally and often that we do not support independence for Kosovo, and that a solution for Kosovo must be found consistent with the territorial integrity of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The future of Kosovo must be decided between the Serbian government and representatives of the ethnic Albanian residents of Kosovo, and the international community should do what it can to facilitate those negotiations.

Fourth, we can threaten Milosevic with sanctions, as the Contact Group has done very recently, if he does not start negotiations without preconditions with the ethnic Albanians within the next month. But threats of sanctions must have the support of the Contact Group if they are to be effective—otherwise Milosevic will play off governments against each other. To be consistent and even-handed, we should also tell ethnic Albanian leaders that they must also come to the table without preconditions on independence of the presence of a third-party mediator.

Fifth, the Administration should not blame Milosevic alone for the current crisis in Kosovo. Clearly, he bears heavy responsibility. But to be an effective intermediary, we must also highlight the unacceptable use of violence by armed ethnic-Albanian separatist groups, which is part of the reason for Serbia's recent crack-down in the first place. We must make clear to both sides that we will not accept violence as a means of resolving the conflict.

If we want to get Milosevic to demonstrate compromise on Kosovo, I do not believe the current U.S. policy of threatening sanctions—beyond what the Contact Group supports—and threatening unilateral U.S. military force will achieve such compromise.

Such a policy antagonizes our allies and Russia, and will not result in a lasting political settlement. Such a policy could very well embroil us in a military conflict in Kosovo at a time when the U.S. public and the Congress grudgingly tolerate our continuing involvement in Bosnia, and could harm U.S. interests throughout former Yugoslavia.

I appreciate the opportunity to give you some of my thinking on the Kosovo problem. I intend to follow up with you on the phone on this matter as well, and I am available if you have any questions.

With best regards,
Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING
KATIE ROCCHIO, LEGRAND
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Katie Rocchio, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Katie is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Katie Rocchio is an exceptional student at Coldwater High School and possesses an impressive high school record. President of the Student Council, Katie is also a member of the National Honor Society, and is the photo editor for her school newspaper. Outside of school, Katie is involved with the Community theater and various other community activities.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Katie Rocchio for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, SUSSEX COUNTY, NJ

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Borough of Hopatcong, Sussex County, NJ.

The Borough of Hopatcong, known originally as the Borough of Brooklyn, was founded on April 2, 1898 off the western shore of Lake Hopatcong, the largest public recreational lake in New Jersey. Although the land surrounding the lake was originally settled by the Leni Lenape Indians, by 1715, English colonists attracted by the growing fur trade had purchased over 1,000 acres of the lake area.

The discovery of iron ore in the middle 1700's led to the development of a thriving mining industry in the Hopatcong area. The inhabitants of Hopatcong at that time, which numbered no greater than 20 families, stayed in small communities that were close to the local iron forges. The Brookland Forge, one of the most productive in the area, comprised four hearths which produced 300 tons of iron per year. While most iron was transported east, to be used by various companies in creating metal products, high shipping costs