

persecution in the divided and troubled countries that it is designed to condemn. Although the sanctions in the bill have been watered down during the many months this legislation was stalled in the International Relations Committee, the premise and structure of H.R. 2431 remain fundamentally flawed.

The bill creates a mid-level bureaucracy within the State Department, the "Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring," which would have extraordinary powers to publicly condemn and sanction a wide range of countries important to U.S. national security interests. The "Office Director" would be charged with identifying countries that engage in or tolerate religious persecution. Countries named as violators would be subject to an arbitrary, "one size fits all" list of trade sanctions including denial of U.S. foreign assistance, denial of visas, and prohibitions on U.S. exports and U.S. support for multilateral development bank assistance.

The danger is that sanctions are automatic, can be waived by the President only in very narrow, extraordinary circumstances, and are limited to one year. Contrary to statements made by the bill's proponents, H.R. 2431 contains no authority for the President to waive sanctions if he determines that they would result in the loss of American jobs or otherwise have an adverse impact on U.S. economic interests. Under the bill, sanctions would be imposed on many governments that are important to U.S. trade, security and foreign policy interests. These countries include Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Morocco.

The supporters of H.R. 2431 say that this bill will force foreign governments to improve their treatment of religious minorities and help alleviate egregious human rights abuses. Yet they fail to offer any evidence that this bill would be effective in achieving its intended result.

In truth, the call for passing H.R. 2431 is not coming from persecuted religious minorities throughout the world. Indeed, many prominent religious leaders from countries this bill is designed to target recently traveled to Washington to warn us that the bill would only further divide them from the societies in which they live and struggle to worship freely. These leaders, such as the Rev. Canon Clement Janda, General Secretary of the All Africa Council of Churches and a native Sudanese Anglican priest, and The Rev. Dr. Joseph Pattiasina, General Secretary of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia, told me in the strongest possible terms that H.R. 2431 would exacerbate tensions between Christians and Muslims in their respective countries.

Christians and clergy working in China, Saudi Arabia and Egypt say that the bill would make their plight worse, not better. For example, the United Church of Christ, which has supported missionary work for decades in many Middle Eastern countries, writes: "By using U.S. power to accuse all Muslim countries of religious persecution, . . . radical Muslims will be strengthened in their efforts to associate Christianity with the West." Religious minorities and missionaries who have dedicated their lives to Christian education abroad fear that their work will be undermined because their host governments will blame them for the imposition of sanctions under this bill.

Rev. Billy Graham's son, Nelson Graham, who heads a large, successful Christian missionary program in China, wrote to urge Con-

gress to reconsider this legislation because of the potential harm it could do to both American missionaries and to indigenous religious organizations in China, as well as in other targeted countries. He believes these groups were given no opportunity to participate in the development of H.R. 2431.

The National Council of Churches, which represents 34 Protestant denominations (including the Methodists, Lutherans and Presbyterians) with an aggregate membership of 53 million Americans, also strongly opposes this legislation because it does not take into account the concerns of a broad spectrum of religious leaders who are "on the ground" fighting religious persecution overseas.

Mr. Chairman, unilateral trade sanctions are dangerous because they appeal to an emotional need in all of us to condemn reprehensible behavior in the strongest possible terms. Yet history has shown that unilateral trade sanctions rarely, if ever, succeed in changing rogue behavior.

In my view, the United States has been the most successful in advancing our values of religious freedom and democracy by remaining active in countries where these principles are not well-established. A policy of engagement fosters expanded opportunities to spread the Christian message through direct contacts that would be denied to us if we pursue a policy of isolating countries through punitive economic sanctions.

Because there is strong evidence that the sanctions proposed in this bill would do more harm than good to religious minorities and American missionaries working abroad, I am opposed to H.R. 2431.

HONORING BILLIE CARR ON HER 70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Billie Carr of Houston for her abiding commitment to making our democracy work for all Americans as she celebrates her 70th birthday on June 1, 1998. Known fondly as "Boss" and "The Godmother" Billie Carr is a political legend. She has been active in local, state, and national politics since 1952, influencing our nation's leaders at all levels and inspiring countless others to become involved in public service.

A native Houstonian, Billie Carr started her political involvement in 1952, working for candidates like Ralph Yarborough and Adlai Stevenson. She has been involved in every political campaign since, helping to elect candidates for every office from precinct chair to president.

Billie was elected in 1954 to the Harris County Democratic Executive Committee from her precinct, a position she has held ever since. She served on the State Democratic Executive Committee from 1964 to 1966 and remains an ex-officio member.

In 1956, Billie started working with Mrs. R.D. "Frankie" Randolph and has offered a unique approach to organizing at the grassroots level ever since. As a thankful student and gracious mentor, Billie perpetuates that experience by presenting Frankie Awards to noted Democratic organizers every year.

In 1972, Billie was elected to serve on the Democratic National Committee, and she was elected to her fifth term in 1992. The Southern Region of the Democratic National Committee elected Billie to represent them on the Executive Committee of the DNC in 1988. She was reelected in 1993, and continues to serve in that capacity today. She served on the National Resolutions Committee from 1984 to 1988, the National Platform Committee from 1983 to 1984, and the National Fairness Committee from 1984 to 1986.

In all that she has done, Billie Carr has been a leader, organizer, and innovator. Known for her liberal politics, Billie is a charter member and organizer of the Harris County Democrats and the Texas Democrats.

Billie Carr's activism and leadership have won her many well-deserved awards. She received the National New Democratic Committee's prestigious Eleanor Roosevelt Award in 1986. In 1987, she received the Harris County Democrats Lifetime Achievement Award. The Texas Democratic Women presented her with their certificate in 1992, and the National Federation of Democratic Women gave her their Star Award in 1993.

While many have benefited from the two books Billie has published, along with numerous articles and classes, there is no better way to learn about political campaigns than to work with her, as many have been so fortunate to do over the years. In addition to her many successful campaigns and the subsequent successes in public office of those she helped to elect, perhaps Billie Carr's most important legacy is the many campaign workers and volunteers who have been inspired by her to continue in public service.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Billie Carr's family and friends and all those she has inspired in honoring her on the occasion of her 70th birthday and commending her on a lifetime of achievement. May the coming years bring good health, happiness, and time to enjoy her three sons, their families, and her grandchildren, as well as further political successes.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY FIORELLO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Anthony Fiorello of Wayne, New Jersey who is being honored this evening by the Borough of West Paterson for his service as Municipal Court Judge.

Tony was born on May 11, 1940. A resident of Passaic County, he graduated from Passaic Valley High School in 1958 whereupon he entered Seton Hall University as an undergraduate student in Political Science. Tony graduated in 1962 with a B.A. in Political Science and in the top 10 percent of his class with a 3.3 G.P.A.

At Seton Hall, Tony was involved in many campus activities including President of the TKE fraternity, varsity-lettered athlete in fencing (selected to E.C.A.C. Championship tournament, Deputy Brigade Commander—ROTC Brigade, and Distinguished Military Student. He also received the University Cross and Crescent Award for Outstanding Achievement

in Academic, Moral, and Extracurricular Accomplishments.

In 1962 Tony entered Seton Hall's School of Law where he was selected as a Centennial Scholar. He was a Charter Member and Secretary of the PAD, a professional legal fraternity and co-authored a study on election laws in states comprising the Third Circuit. During this time, he also served a clerkship for the City Attorney, City of Paterson.

In February 1966, Tony was called to active service during the Vietnam War and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant. He was promoted to Captain in 1967 and served as Assistant Inspector General, U.S.A.T.C., Fort Knox, Kentucky where he later served as a member of the U.S.A.T.C. General Staff. Tony was decorated with the U.S. Army Commendation Medal and the National Defense Medal.

Tony has a wealth of legal experience, with a career spanning 32 years. A trial attorney, he has served many local municipalities as their attorney including the Borough of Wanaque—where he still serves, the Township of Wayne, the Boroughs of Totowa and Haledon, and the Cities of Passaic and Garfield (Board of Education). Tony also served as the Municipal Court Judge for the Borough of West Paterson, from 1995 to 1998. Additionally, he has been appointed by the New Jersey Superior Court as guardian for incompetents and minors, and as a fiscal agent for corporations involved in litigation.

An active member of the community, Tony has given much of his time to many local civic and religious organizations. He is a member of the Wayne Elks, President of the Wayne Jaycees, and a member and coach at the Wayne P.A.L. Tony is also Director for many groups including Citizens Against Drug Abuse and the Greater Wayne Chamber of Commerce, and is Chairperson of the North Jersey Country Club. He is President of the Holy Cross Home School Association as well as the Paterson Diocesan Federation of Home School Associations. Tony has also served as a presenter for the New Jersey Catholic Conference in dialogue with federal and state legislators on issues of importance to New Jersey Bishops.

Tony was married on February 20, 1965 to the former Isabell Gallagher. They have three children—Jackilyn Fiorello Carpinteri, age 31, Kathleen Fiorello, age 29, and Brian Fiorello age 26.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Tony's family and friends, and the Borough of West Paterson in recognizing the many outstanding and invaluable contributions Anthony Fiorello has made throughout the years to our community.

CLARIFYING FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this statement is to demonstrate the clear legislative intent for federal funding to "Reconstruct SE Main Avenue and Related Improvements, completing 34th St. Corridor Project, Moorhead, Minnesota" contained in H.R. 2400, The Building Efficient

Surface Transportation and Equity Act of 1998 or "BESTEA." The intent of this federal allocation is based upon an agreement reached between the City of Moorhead Township.

To clarify the legislative intent of the current federal allocation to the City of Moorhead, Minnesota under H.R. 2400 as understood and agreed to by both the City of Moorhead, and Moorhead Township, the following description applies:

First, no railroad relocation can take place under this project regardless of the source of funding for that relocation unless the Moorhead Township agrees with the City of Moorhead on all aspects of the railroad relocation.

Second, \$250,000 of this funding will be used to study the interchange and rail relocation alternatives and will be conducted jointly and with a coequal status between the City of Moorhead and Moorhead Township:

These funds shall be made available for a local commission called The Commission to Study Alternatives of Rail Relocation in the Moorhead Region. This commission shall consist of three members representing the Township of Moorhead and three members representing the City of Moorhead. The commission shall also consist of a seventh member agreed to by both the City of Moorhead and Moorhead Township. No funds for rail relocation can be made available until agreement is reached by this commission for alternative sites or plans.

Intended funding for this project shall be used only for those phases of the 34th Street Corridor Project as outlined in the attached information.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately was unable to be present on May 19, 20, and 21 for the following recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted No on Rollcall Vote 156, No on Rollcall Vote 157, No on Rollcall Vote 158, No on Rollcall Vote 159, No on Rollcall Vote 160, Yes on Rollcall Vote 161, Yes on Rollcall Vote 162, Yes on Rollcall Vote 163, Yes on Rollcall Vote 164, Yes on Rollcall Vote 165, Yes on Rollcall Vote 166, and Yes on Rollcall Vote 183.

VIOLATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES-JAPAN INSURANCE AGREEMENT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my concerns regarding current violations of the United States-Japan Insurance Agreement. Effective enforcement of existing trade agreements must be a fundamental objective of U.S. trade policy. I am sad to report, however, that blatant violations of the United States-Japan Insurance Agreement are now taking place with barely a word of protest from the United States Government.

The United States-Japan Insurance Agreement is one of the United States' primary market access agreements with Japan. It is supposed to promote liberalization of the Japanese insurance market by maintaining existing safeguards in the third sector, where United States companies have traditionally had success, until the primary first and second sectors have been liberalized by the Japanese Government. Currently, however, this arrangement is under direct attack by Yasuda Fire and Marine Co., Ltd., Japan's second largest non-life insurance company—who has used its affiliate and de facto subsidiary INA Himawari Life Insurance Co., Ltd. to prematurely ramp up its presence in the third sector.

If we allow Yasuda to continue expanding its third sector presence before the life and non-life sectors are substantially deregulated, the Agreement will lose its primary incentive for compliance by Japanese firms (i.e., the promise of access to the third sector). Although it failed to comply with the Agreement's critical third sector provisions, Japan appears ready to start the clock running on the two and one-half year lead up to opening the third sector to large Japanese companies on July 1 of this year. The Government of Japan must not be allowed to take this action until measures are taken to remedy the violations. The future of United States companies in the Japanese market is at stake. The Administration should take immediate action to ensure full and effective enforcement of this agreement.

The current violations also pose a substantial threat to U.S. foreign and trade policy. If the United States is unable to take forceful action in the face of clear violations of the United States-Japan Insurance Agreement, the Administration will be signaling Japan, as well as other countries that would negotiate with us in the future, that the United States is unwilling or unable to enforce commitments made to it.

IT'S OFFICIAL. THE SAFE ACT, (H.R. 695) JEOPARDIZES ISRAEL'S SECURITY!

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the Israeli Ministry of Defense has just issued a statement regarding encryption which states that the decontrol of encryption exports, as allowed by the SAFE Act, (H.R. 695) would threaten Israel's national security. Listen carefully to their exact statement: "Israel considers the regulation and control of encryption products and technology to be vital to its national security, the combating of terrorism and effective law enforcement. Engagement of any kind in encryption technology in Israel is controlled by the Government of Israel. Israeli government policy will continue to protect sensitive and essential interests by enforcing strict national security policy in this regard. It is Israel's view that all countries should do their utmost to prevent the acquisition of strong encryption technology and products by terrorist and criminal entities."

And yet, as we all know, H.R. 695 allows for the immediate export of unrestricted encryption technology and allows for the acquisition of strong encryption technology by