

time we are engaged in our own war against terrorism?

We are fighting in a country thousands of miles away, but Israel's enemies are in her own back yard. How can we tell Israel to back off, when the terrorists don't play by civilized rules?

Israel is a land that is holy to so many people throughout the world. Yet the terrorists have invaded the most sacred churches, shooting from its windows, and using nuns and clerics as human shields.

This is what Israel is up against, Mr. Speaker. Yassir Arafat either can not, will not, or does not want to, end the terrorist attacks against innocent Israelis.

Since September 11th, we Americans know very well what terrorists seek to do—to strike mortal fear within the fabric of everyday life, to destroy free society from within.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot expect Israel—or any free country—to cease defending itself against this kind of threat.

Just as we are standing up to Osama Bin Laden and his forces of evil, Israel must stand up against the forces of evil that would bring her down.

SOCIAL SECURITY CERTIFICATES

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on Feb 15, 2002, House Majority Leader DICK ARMEY circulated a Memorandum where he called on Congress to push Social Security Privatization in the upcoming legislative session. I agree that addressing the long-term solvency of the Social Security program deserves our utmost attention in the upcoming legislative session. However, the recommendation that we privatize Social Security does nothing to strengthen the financial solvency of the program.

The Majority Leader exclaims that his bill H.R. 3135, which allows workers to voluntarily put between three and eight percentage points of their Social Security tax into personal retirement accounts, is based on a progressive scale that allows lower-income workers to put more into their accounts and to build more wealth. The Majority Leader failed to take into account the volatility of the stock market. I do not believe that the American public is willing to gamble their retirement security in the up's and down of the stock market. Especially, with the recent collapse of Enron and the present economic recession, the American public is even more suspicious of any proposal that will partially or fully privatize Social Security. Americans know that Social Security provides guaranteed, lifelong benefits. No matter what the stock market does the day you retire or in the months leading up to your retirement, your benefits will be unaffected.

In addition, the Majority Leader's plan to send out Social Security certificates to seniors that claim to guarantee their Social Security benefits is disingenuous at best. Not only will sending these bogus certificates cost the taxpayers 47 million dollars, but it does absolutely nothing to guarantee that Social Security benefits will be there in the future. The Congressional Research Service has concluded that the certificates provide no more protection

than already exists under law. It's not an iron-clad guarantee and Senior citizens will not be able to use these certificates in a court of law. The certificates should instead tell Seniors the truth about the Republican's plan to privatize Social Security and their reckless waste of the budget surplus, which will inevitably lead to a lack of benefits for Seniors.

Nevertheless, the Social Security program faces serious financial challenges, however, those challenges are manageable and does not require us to dismantle the system via privatization.

CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 476, the Child Custody Protection Act.

This legislation makes it a federal crime to knowingly transport a minor across state lines with the intent that she obtain an abortion, in violation of the minor's home state parental consent or notification law. Under the measure, violations of this law would be punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 and one year in prison. Any parent or guardian who suffers legal harm from the violation of a parental notification law is allowed to seek civil action for damages.

The bill includes an exception from prosecution, however, if the abortion is necessary to save the life of the minor. The bill also protects the minor from prosecution under its provisions. The measure allows individuals accused of violating this provision to defend themselves against civil and criminal actions by claiming that they believed the parents had been notified or had given their consent, as required by state law.

By way of background, it is important to note that in many states it is illegal for a school nurse to dispense so much as an aspirin to a minor without parental consent. However, absent this legislation, minors can be brought across state lines without parental consent for the express purpose of obtaining an abortion. Over-the-counter aspirin requires parental notification, but abortion does not? Mr. Speaker, how can this be?

In 1999, the House passed identical legislation by a vote of 270 to 159; unfortunately, the measure was never considered by the other body, thus necessitating its reintroduction in the 107th Congress. I commend Chairman SENSENBRENNER, Chairman CHABOT, and Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for their work in crafting this urgent legislation, and I truly hope that my colleagues will join me in voting for this legislation today. As such, I urge an "aye" vote on final passage.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE PAST AS A PROLOGUE TO
THE FUTURE—75 YEARS AFTER
THE FLOOD OF 1927—

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the 75th Anniversary of the Flood of 1927, the images that come to mind serve to remind us of how the flood affected Missouri and shaped the flood protection policies of today. Although the floodwaters of the past have receded, the lessons they have left behind are unmistakably clear.

The first major levee break during the Flood of 1927 was at the Dorena levee and has significant meaning to those living in the surrounding area because it forever changed Missouri and the entire river delta. The Dorena break alone flooded 135,000 acres of land in the St. John Levee and Drainage District, left 7,500 people homeless and overtopped the Farrenburg levee near New Madrid, flooding an additional one million acres. Overall, the break will always be remembered as part of the greatest natural disaster in American history.

When the Flood of 1927 finally subsided, the disaster had displaced 700,000 people—80,000 more people than currently live in Missouri's Eighth District today. Geographically, the flood left 26,000 square miles under water (an area roughly two times the size of the country of Switzerland), crops were destroyed, cities paralyzed, farm land ruined and more than a thousand people were dead (276 from the flood and the remainder from the sickness and disease that followed). Today, a flood of that magnitude would shut down every interstate from St. Louis south to New Orleans—running east or west.

Prior to the Flood of 1927, the river control system in place was based on a "levees only" policy, which many attribute as being partially responsible for the Flood of 1927. The policy meant that there were no outlets, reservoirs or spillways to assist in flood control. The lack of coordinated protection for water flow combined with the heavy rain and melting snow resulted in major flooding which broke the levees in more than 120 places. At a time when the federal budget barely exceeded \$3 billion, the flood, directly and indirectly, caused an estimated \$1 billion in property damage.

As is the case with many disasters, the Flood of 1927 prompted lawmakers to take a long look at past policy. In an attempt to learn from the flood so that they wouldn't repeat the mistakes of the past, the Flood of 1927 led to the "Flood Control Act of 1928." The plan, which gave the US Army Corps of Engineers the job of providing flood control on the Mississippi River, authorized the Jadwin Plan, or what came to be known as the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project (MR & T). This comprehensive flood control plan has four major elements—levees, floodways and control structures, channel improvements and stabilization measures, and tributary basin improvements. These elements work together to provide flood protection and navigation while simultaneously promoting environmental stewardship and restoration.

Since the establishment of MR & T in 1928, more than 87 percent of the project has been

completed. This investment of nearly \$11 billion has been used for planning, construction, operation and maintenance. That \$11 billion has paid off—people live in safer communities protected from many of the hazards of flooding; commerce and economic development have enhanced river towns and steps have been taken to promote conservation of land while providing recreational use opportunities for communities along our nation's rivers. Perhaps most notable is that the MR & T project has prevented \$258 billion in flood damages to date. It means that for every one dollar spent, we have saved \$24 in flood-related damages.

It is that type of investment in the future that we continue to make as the Army Corps of Engineers works with Congress during the budget process. As was the case during the Depression and previous wars, Congress is currently faced with certain financial realities. In light of those realities, I still believe this much-needed funding is critical to ensuring that flood protection, navigation, port authority and drainage projects are completed so that lives are saved and the economic livelihood of towns up and down the river are preserved.

RECOGNIZING MR. CRAIG BAZZANI

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize Mr. Craig Bazzani for his many years of continuing service to the 15th District of Illinois. A graduate of Illinois State University, Mr. Bazzani has shown exemplary dedication to my home state. Throughout his twenty-five year tenure at the University of Illinois, Mr. Bazzani has held several key positions that have enabled him to make immense contributions to the betterment of the institution. He played an important role in the design of a major debt-financing program, introduced the first University Financial Accounting System, developed the labor relations program, assisted the University in making major strides in the provision of multiple sources of energy for its buildings and facilities, and took the initiative to modernize all of the areas that reported to him. But what leaves an even more lasting impression is the deep devotion he has shown to his co-workers, inspiring in them the necessary confidence to complete the difficult tasks with which he has been entrusted. The University will surely miss Craig's incisive and effective style of administration, but joins me in wishing him the best of luck in his retirement and all of his future endeavors. We thank him for his many years of service to the University, knowing that only the most honorable of people could ever fill his shoes.

MAKE THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF PERMANENT

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lend my strong support for making the mar-

riage tax penalty relief permanent. Last May Congress passed historic tax relief which included marriage penalty tax relief. Unfortunately, the tax package, including the marriage tax penalty relief, is sunset to expire in 2011.

Prior to passage of the tax relief legislation, the U.S. tax code penalized over 25 million married couples, costing them an average of \$1,400 in additional taxes over that of two people living together outside of marriage. This discrepancy, justifiably, became known as the "Marriage Tax Penalty."

The tax relief package passed by Congress phased out the marriage tax penalty, providing billions in tax relief over 10 years for married couples. However, due to the compromise reached with the Senate, the marriage tax penalty relief is set to expire in 2011. Thus, in 2011, once again, millions of married couples will be faced with paying more taxes simply because they are married.

Mr. Speaker, the strength of America rests on the solid foundation of the American family. For too long our federal tax policy has chipped away at that foundation. Under Republican leadership and with the leadership of President Bush, Congress has taken an important step toward reaffirming the centrality of marriage in the American society. Let's not hang the specter of future tax penalties over the heads of our current and future American families. We must eliminate the Marriage Tax Penalty once and for all.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois, my good friend Mr. Weller, for his strong and consistent advocacy of tax fairness, especially in this vital area of marriage taxes. I have been proud to fight with Mr. Weller on this issue for so long. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to eliminating this onerous burden on marriage and make the marriage tax penalty relief permanent.

IN HONOR OF NORA E. WRIGHT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of a truly remarkable woman on the occasion of her 100th birthday celebration.

Deacon Nora E. Wright was born at the dawn of the twentieth century to the late Rev. and Mrs. Robert Brightwell in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated from the Roth Street School and Spelman Seminary in her hometown. As the daughter of a Baptist Minister she was taught to love family and church above all else. In 1952, she joined the Berean Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of Dr. Hylton L. James. She has always been an active and dedicated member of her church. Deacon Wright has served as a Supervisor of the Deaconess Broad for 15 years, President of the Senior Missionary Society for 24 years, an advisor to the floral club, and a member of the Senior and Volunteer Choirs. Her religious convictions and service go far beyond her own church. In 1978, she was honored for her 44 years of service as a District Worker to 25 churches, Recording Secretary for 30 years, and as the Vice-President at large. Under the Pastorate of Dr. Arlee Griffin, Nora was consecrated as a Deacon. Extending beyond the Eastern Baptist Association, she became

Chairman of the Worship Committee of the New England Convention.

Deacon Wright's work has not been limited to the church. She also organized and became the leader of the Annie G. Martin Tent # 102; she was the organizer and president of the Guiding Light Benevolent Club of Brooklyn; and Founder and Executive Director of the Ruth L. McLean Scholarship Guild. All of these groups were formed with the concept of helping others. Nora has also held positions as the Recording Secretary of the Executive Board of the Eastern District Grand Tent #3; Financial Secretary of the Brooklyn Tent Home; a member of the Past Grand Officers League of the Royal Degree Chamber #5; and Treasurer of the C.V.C. Alumni. One of her greatest accomplishments is the creation of the first Black calendar Children Preview in 1960.

Deacon Wright has been recognized for many of her accomplishments; she received a citation from the now former Brooklyn Borough President, Howard Golden; a citation of honor as an extraordinary elder from the Kings County District Attorney, the Honorable Charles J. Hynes; and a citation from former New York State Assemblyman(now Councilman), the Honorable Al Vann.

Mr. Speaker, Deacon Nora E. Wright is a wife, a mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great-grandmother. She has lived through experiences that most can only read about in history books and throughout she has remained a dedicated church leader, and a lover of all mankind. On the occasion of her 100th Birthday, she is more than deserving of this recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

INTRODUCTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PROTECTION ACT OF 2002

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce legislation that would outlaw the practice of purchasing or selling Social Security numbers.

A few years ago, a man named Liam Youens was stalking a 21-year-old New Hampshire woman named Amy Boyer. Youens reportedly purchased Amy Boyer's Social Security number from an Internet Web site for \$45. Using this information, he was able to track her down, a process that he chillingly detailed on an Internet Web site that he named after his target. Finally, this demented stalker fatally shot Amy Boyer in front of the dental office where she worked. Afterwards, he turned the gun on himself.

This terrible tragedy underscores the fact that while the Social Security number was originally intended to be used only for the purposes of collecting Social Security taxes and administering the program's benefits, it has over the years evolved into a ubiquitous national personal identification number which is subject to misuse and abuse. The unregulated sale and purchase of these numbers is a significant factor in a growing range of illegal activities, including fraud, identity theft, and tragically, stalkings and now, even murders.