

RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING SCIENCE STUDENTS

HON. ROBERT E. BADHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 1988

Mr. BADHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize 36 young men and women from southern California who have been named outstanding high school science students. They were recognized recently by Chapman College, an excellent school in Orange, CA, that many residents of the 40th congressional district have the opportunity to attend.

The future of our Nation depends on quality education in the fields of science and technology. Without such emphasis, the United States risks losing its place as the undisputed economic leader of the free world.

Here are the students who are deserving of recognition by this body:

Scott Siegel, David Cesario, Eyal Goldmann, Hiep Quach, Jason Black, Michele Wen-Yee Chan, Jon Pickett, Glen De Sandra, Albert Huang, Paul Cash, Roy D. Yen, Deborah K. Oh, Jong Moon, John Lee, Mike Coffin, Steve Burgeson, Yu-Jen Wang, Ripdeep Mangat, Sheila Tai, Jill Gould, Kevin Kawado, Terry Chun, Shiva Malek, Jennifer Tan, Anthony C. Shen, David C. Bear, Dat Tien Dinh, Michael Medina, Sang Tran, Robert Fowler, Brad Collins, Ilene Goldman, Phil Homer, Cindy Alexander, Arian Pampo-Flores and Danny Braunstein.

Mr. Speaker, these students hold the key to our future standing in the world. I'm sure my colleagues join me in congratulating these young men and women and encouraging them to continue their hard work to make this country a better place to live.

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 1988

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the attached proclamation, signed by Connecticut's Gov. William A. O'Neill, designating the week of April 17, 1988, as "World Population Awareness Week" be included in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

In today's rapidly changing world, steps must be taken to stimulate a global awareness of rising population and its effects.

As a leader among nations, the United States should strive to promote a worldwide effort that will assure increased prosperity for all peoples on Earth. Recognition of "World Population Awareness Week" is part of the process necessary to acquaint the public with the demands encountered by increasing population.

State of Connecticut

BY HIS EXCELLENCY WILLIAM A. O'NEILL,
GOVERNOR: AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The world's population has reached approximately five billion and is growing at the unprecedented rate of 87 million a year.

It is most important for the people of our state and nation to recognize that as the

population of the world increases, so does the demand for the world's finite resources.

We must make a concerted effort to understand the effects of rapid population growth throughout the developing world and continually commit ourselves to improving the quality of life in all nations.

This year, the week of April 17 through 23 is being observed by many organizations and individuals throughout the United States as World Population Awareness Week.

In coordination with this effort and to create a greater public awareness of the basic human needs of all people and our responsibility to continually strive to help those less fortunate, I am pleased to designate April 17 through 23, 1988 as World Population Awareness Week in Connecticut.

NO DEAL WITH PANAMA'S NORIEGA BEATS A BAD ONE

HON. DANTE B. FASCELL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 1988

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Speaker, the South Dade News Leader recently published an editorial which captures well the anger and frustration generated among the American people by reports of the "plea bargain" offered to Panama's notorious drug baron and dictator, Gen. Manuel Noriega, by the Reagan administration. I commend this thoughtful editorial to our colleagues.

At a time when there is overwhelming sentiment on the part of the Congress and the American people to increase the effort in the war on drugs, the administration would drop pending drug charges against the Panamanian dictator, apparently without securing the removal of Noriega's cronies and ending Panama's role as a drug base. That we would offer such a bargain throws in doubt the credibility of this country's antidrug efforts at home and abroad. As the News Leader says, the administration should "Just say no" to Noriega.

[From the South Dade News Leader, May 17, 1988]

NORIEGA SITUATION AN EMBARRASSMENT

"Who would ever believe that the United States can or will do anything again in Latin America if in Panama we allow a drug-dealing dictator who has been indicted, who has killed people, who is a mercenary of the worst sort, to thumb his nose at (us) and continue to keep the Panamanian people under his control? I've never heard of such a disgraceful proposal."—Sen. Alphonse D'Amato, R-N.Y.

That sums up the bewilderment and outrage of Americans now that the Reagan administration apparently is ready to capitulate to Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater calls it a "plea bargain." We drop drug charges against Noriega; he agrees to leave Panama by August for at least a year, allowing for election of a new Panamanian government. Apparently, his billion-dollar drug empire would stay in place.

There is always something unsavory about plea bargaining with criminals; the deals always favor them, not society. And this is no deal—not for Panama, not for the United States. It sells out the people of Panama. It caves in to Noriega. It does nothing to stop the flow of drugs. And it further damages the credibility of an already reeling administration.

Its willingness to deal is an embarrassing admission that it has not been able to force Noriega out, with sanctions and diplomatic pressure. It is reduced to groveling: If we drop the drug charges and let you keep all your dirty money, will you just go to an island somewhere for a while, please?

But sadly it fits with the sorry history of the failure of the American government—over four administrations—to deal with Noriega and his drug empire. Retired drug agents have come forward to say they had the goods on Noriega for 18 years—"not a smoking gun but a 21-cannon barrage"—but every time they tried to move they were pulled back by the State Department.

Again the Reagan administration is being panicked by the threat of communism—afraid Noriega will team up with Castro—while turning a blind eye to the more insidious and compelling danger of drugs. This is a bad deal. Reagan should stand up for what he stands for and "Just say no!"

HATE CRIME STATISTICS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 1988

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3193) to provide for the acquisition and publication of data about crimes that manifest prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.

Mr. OWENS of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (H.R. 3193).

The Systematic collection of detailed, nationwide data concerning the extent and nature of hate crimes in this country is of great significance to the ongoing struggle against racism and other forms of bigotry in the United States. The sporadic, fleeting spotlight this problem generally now receives would be replaced with consistent, sustained attention to the issue, fostering both more long-term and more meaningful efforts to confront and combat bigoted violence in our communities. Patterns can be identified; priorities for action can be established. The pressing need to enhance and add to the arsenal of legal weapons available to prosecute the perpetrators of hate crimes will be given a vital, new sense of urgency.

Perhaps most importantly, the collection of detailed statistics about hate crimes would serve as a crude barometer of racism and bigotry pulsing through our society, forcing all of us to begin facing and responding to some unpleasant truths about life in America today. It is convenient, but less than accurate, to regard hate crimes as aberrant and unusual behavior. Certainly, we have progressed beyond the neanderthal age of festive lynching parties and most Americans now respond to acts of racial violence with sincere shock and outrage. But hate crimes are not committed in a vacuum. No baby is born with "nigger" or "kike" on his lips; no baby is born with hate in his heart. Bigotry is learned, not innate.

About 100 years ago in his essay "Disgraceful Persecution of a Boy," Mark Twain made this point by mounting a tongue-in-

cheek defense of a child whose arrest for hurling stones at Chinese immigrants was widely hailed in San Francisco newspapers at the time. The stone throwing was terrible and should be punished, Twain agreed, but the hypocrisy of the media and San Francisco society was just as, if not more, offensive as anything the child had done. After surveying all of the official and unofficial forms of bigotry and abuse which San Francisco society routinely directed against the Chinese at the time, Twain noted that:

The boy found out that a Chinaman had no rights that any man was bound to respect; that he had no sorrows that any man was bound to pity, that neither his life nor his liberty was worth the purchase of a penny when a white man needed a scapegoat; that nobody loved Chairmen, that nobody befriended them, nobody spared them suffering when it was convenient to inflict it; everybody, individuals, communities, and the majesty of the State itself, joined in hating, abusing, and persecuting these humble strangers . . . Everything conspired to teach him that it was a high and holy thing to stone a Chinaman, and yet he no sooner attempts to do his duty than he is punished for it.

Twisted, venal thugs like Jon Lester of Howard Beach and others who engage in bigoted violence must be held responsible for their actions and must be prosecuted and punished to the full extent of the law. But vigorously acting against the Jon Lesters of our communities must never, as it did with Twain's "persecuted" boy, be allowed to become a convenient substitute for the more painful task of identifying and acting against the bigotry, the hate, the mistrust among peoples, that exist in society as a whole. Not only when it is violent, not only when it is obvious, but always and in all its myriad forms, bigotry must command the attention and concerted action of all Americans.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act will give new focus and new impetus to that necessary task and should receive our unanimous support.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

HON. BOB WHITTAKER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 1988

Mr. WHITTAKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in proclaiming this week "National Rural Health Awareness Week."

While Americans are becoming more health-conscious and more aware than ever of their health care options, most of the attention has been focused on our neighbors living in cities. Let's take a minute to look at what's happening in our Nation's small towns and rural areas.

Rural women have a harder time finding obstetrical care, and face a greater chance of dying in childbirth. While medical technology has made great strides in reducing infant mortality, the infant mortality rate in rural areas is significantly higher than in urban areas. Rural Americans, particularly farmers, have a higher injury rate than their urban neighbors. Rural Americans have a higher rate of chronic diseases, in part reflecting the disproportionately high number of elderly in our rural areas.

But not only do rural Americans face special health care needs, they also face special obstacles to the delivery of services. This lack of access has long-ranging effects on the health of our Nation's small towns and rural citizens.

The problem of rural health care is not limited to the patient—it also affects the hospitals, the doctors, the nurses, and all those people involved in the health care delivery system. Our rural hospitals, reimbursed at lower DRG's and with a lower volume of patients, are closing at alarming rates. Attracting health care professionals to rural areas continues to be difficult. For example, the nursing shortage is particularly acute in rural areas, where nurses are being recruited away by city hospitals, able to offer higher salaries and more flexible working conditions.

For too long, the special health care needs and problems of rural Americans have taken a back seat to our urban neighbors. Yet these problems have given a number of my colleagues and I the impetus to band together and push these problems to the forefront. The House Rural Health Care Coalition saw a number of successes last year and I am encouraged that many of this year's priorities will become law.

The Rural Health Care Coalition has made progress in addressing the special needs of the health care delivery system in rural areas, but much still needs to be done. Let's use National Rural Health Awareness Week as the needed springboard to finally give the health of rural Americans the priority it deserves.

IN HONOR OF EDGAR B. HOLT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 1988

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 22, the third annual Edgar B. Holt Scholarship fund-raiser will be held in Flint, MI. Each year, these scholarships are awarded to deserving young black students. The legacy Edgar Holt left to them and to Flint is one of hope and opportunity. For these black students, the Edgar B. Holt Scholarship Program often means the difference between poverty or a string of dead-end jobs and a life of new growth and dreams realized.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Flint was truly blessed to have a citizen like Edgar B. Holt. His heroic work to improve the lives of working people and his battle for the rights and dignity of blacks have made our community a better place and its people a better people. Edgar Holt shared the vision and relentless pursuit of truth of his contemporary, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Indeed, in many ways, Edgar Holt was Flint's Dr. King.

From 1950 until his death in 1984, Edgar Holt fought unceasingly for the economic rights of workers, particularly the black workers of Buick Motor Division, where he worked. He served as the director of education for the United Auto Workers Local 599, where he organized a union bargaining committee to fight for equal pay and benefits for black employees. Edgar Holt also helped establish the Foundry Council, an organization that fought for workers' rights in the Buick foundry.

However, it was his work with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People [NAACP] for which he became best known. Indeed, Mr. Holt was so closely associated with the growth of the NAACP in Michigan in the 1950's and 1960's that he was commonly known in Flint as "Mr. NAACP."

For 34 years, Edgar Holt was the heart and soul of Flint activism against the injustice of racism. With his help, the black community won a voice in Flint that was unparalleled—the election of the city's first black mayor in 1958. Mr. Holt took on another institution entrenched in the conflicts between blacks and whites—the Flint City Police Department. Not only did he improve relations between the department and the black community, he went on to root out racism and discrimination within the department.

Edgar and Lois Holt considered all of the black youth of Flint as their "adopted" children, whose future was at risk unless new doors could be opened for blacks across America. And if those doors would not open of their own accord, Mr. Holt was determined to break them down so that black young people could stream through them to a better life and a brighter future.

Mr. Holt made our entire community a better place for people of all races to work, to raise our families, and to experience the fairness and equality guaranteed by our Constitution. The Edgar B. Holt Scholarship Fund offers young black students the chance to do just that. Mr. Holt's life and now his legacy are a powerful role model for today's black youth. We can keep his spirit alive in our community by supporting this scholarship fund, which says to young black men and women, "we believe in you. Your hopes are not empty dreams. Together, we can make those dreams reality."

NAUGATUCK VALLEY FASTEST GROWING AREA IN CONNECTICUT

HON. JOHN G. ROWLAND

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 1988

Mr. ROWLAND of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share with my colleagues some good news from an area of my district known as the Naugatuck Valley.

In 4 years, a six mill-town community known as the Naugatuck Valley in Connecticut, designed by Government for more than two decades as economically depressed, has been transformed into a booming cosmopolitan, affluent community now projected to be the fastest growing area of the State.

The towns of Ansonia, Derby, Shelton, Seymour, Oxford and Beacon Falls, with a combined population of about 90,000 people had seen little change for more than 40 years. The primarily Italian, Irish, Polish and Russian families that has emigrated and located in the Valley were very nonmobile with most members of their large families living their entire lives in the community. The people who lived there, worked there and also purchased services there. People knew each other. There were no socio-economic levels or separations. Volunteerism thrived with volunteer fire departments and ambulance services and at the local community hospital.