

of Brooklyn, NY by an overwhelming 20,000 votes in the 1988 primary.

Mr. Green is, above all, a devoted family man. He and his wife Theopia Green are the parents of Carl Green, Jr., and Roger L. Green, who is assemblyman of Brooklyn's 57th Assembly District.

Carl Green's integrity and honesty are legendary throughout Brooklyn. I am confident that he will be sorely missed by the housing authority. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending best wishes to Carl in all his future endeavors.

IMPOSING CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR DAMAGE TO RELIGIOUS PROPERTY AND OBSTRUCTION OF PERSONS IN FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

SPEECH OF

HON. MERVYN M. DYMALLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 1988

Mr. DYMALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 794, a bill which makes it a Federal crime to interfere forcibly with the free exercise of religion.

I would like to extend my compliments to both sponsors, the distinguished Representative from Kansas, Mr. GLICKMAN and the honorable Senator from Ohio, Mr. METZENBAUM for their diligence and commitment to ensuring that our laws impose criminal penalties for damage to religious property and for obstruction of persons in the free exercise of religious beliefs.

On December 22, 1987, I expressed my support for H.R. 3258, a companion bill to S. 794, which the House passed on June 14, 1988. Our forefathers long ago came to our shores seeking refuge from religious persecution. Ever since, our Constitution has guaranteed religious freedom for all our citizens. This bill extends these protections by ensuring that those who do not abide by our Constitution are dealt with appropriately by our law enforcement system.

Mr. Speaker, when I addressed the House last regarding this bill, I expressed my concern that the bill was not clear in that it did not specifically include the protection of mosques. At that time, I cited as an example of violence against the Islamic community nationwide one incident, when two homemade pipe bombs were thrown from a truck through the window of a mosque in Houston, TX causing \$50,000 in damage. Other mosques throughout the country were vandalized or threatened, and some even received threats stating: "You people are dead."

There has never been a greater need to protect the American Islamic community. According to a recent study published in Time magazine, the American Islamic population is rapidly approaching 5 million strong, and is estimated to become the second largest religious community in this country in 30 years.

I am glad to say, today, that Senator METZENBAUM has amended his bill to remove all ambiguity, and specifically to include the term mosque under its protection. I am grateful to the Senator for his amendment which demonstrates clearly that this is a truly comprehen-

sive bill, one which affords protection to all religious segments of our society.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is an important legislation, one which reaffirms our heritage of religious tolerance as guaranteed by our Constitution, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

WILLIE VELASQUEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBERT G. BUSTAMANTE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 1988

Mr. BUSTAMANTE. Mr. Speaker, as were many of my friends and colleagues, I was saddened to learn of the untimely death of Willie Velasquez. It is difficult to lose a member of your community who has done so much to bring it together and give it a feeling of self-worth and control over its condition. Though he was only 44 years old, he had lived a full life and accomplished the goals of a hundred lives.

When Willie began the Southwest Voter Registration Education project, the voice of Hispanic Americans in our Nation's affairs was a soft one. Fewer than 2½ million Hispanic citizens were registered to vote and only a miniscule few held elected office. Though our numbers were large, and growing, we had not established ourselves as a major participant in the political arena. In large part, through the major efforts of Willie, and the feelings of empowerment he gave us, our voice has grown stronger. Through hundreds of voter registration drives orchestrated by the project, the number of Hispanics registered to vote doubled to more than 5 million. That growth was accomplished by an increase in Hispanic elected officials, many of whom received votes from newly registered participants.

As the project grew and brought more people into the American dream of participatory democracy, Willie never lost sight of his purpose and remained true to his goal of empowering others rather than himself. When we think of Willie, our thoughts will be filled with admiration and thanks. Willie brought a sense of hope and self-worth to millions of our fellow Americans, and for that we will always be thankful.

DRUG FREE AMERICA ACT OF 1988

HON. JACK BUECHNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 1988

Mr. BUECHNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced the Drug Free America Act of 1988 to help combat the war on drugs. H.R. 4822 would aid greatly in fighting the drug problem in our Nation. There are three areas where we need to focus our attention—user accountability, drug interdiction at our borders, cutting the production and supply of illicit drugs at the country of origin. This legislation will meet these three major objectives.

First, it is time to start toughening up on first offenders. Under this legislation, all first offenders convicted of possession, but merely placed on probation, would be sentenced to

community service. Our prisons are clogged and as a result, rarely the place for first offenders. Let's not give offenders a slap on the wrist, but a sense of what they did wrong. If judges decide that mere probation is the appropriate sentence, a mandatory community service sentence would make them think long and hard about using drugs again.

It is vital that these users be held accountable. As the Wall Street Journal stated in its editorial: "What About the Users?" (June 21, 1988), "Anyone guilty of a drug crime should receive mandatory punishment. . . . By targeting users—raising the risk of their crimes with the promise of certain punishment—policymakers can seriously dent demand." I agree, and it's time we address the problem of first offenders.

Second, far too often we in Congress devise new programs without thinking about funding. Our war on drugs is a top priority for all of Members of Congress. It is, therefore, important for us to provide funding mechanisms without increasing taxes. In its frenzy to enact popular antidrug legislation, Congress may fail to consider the budgetary impact of new multimillion-dollar programs. Yes, more funding for drug interdiction may be needed, but let's be cognizant of how to pay for it.

This legislation would impose a special landing or customs fee on all passengers arriving in the United States. This fee, which I have designated as \$10, would be added to each airline ticket and would go toward Customs drug interdiction efforts. On the basis of last year's statistics, this would raise over \$250 million.

This fee is important because it would require non-American citizens as well as Americans who land in the United States from a foreign country to help finance our war on drugs. In addition, while drug interdiction money is falling—the House cut appropriations for the Coast Guard during the week of June 13—we need to find more funds to curb the flow of drugs into the United States.

In 1987, more than 300 million persons entered the United States. Customs seizures amounted to over \$741 million. If additional funds can be wisely spent in furtherance of drug interdiction efforts and if these funds can be allocated without resort to new taxes, then a fee such as this should be considered.

Finally, the legislation mandates the President to devise two multinational strike forces for the Western Hemisphere and NATO. The purpose of the strike forces shall be to combat illicit narcotics production and trafficking through military or paramilitary actions, coordination of intelligence activities, and such other means as agreed to by the participating countries.

In a CBS/New York Times poll, Americans indicated that the most important foreign policy issue facing the Nation is drug trafficking. It is time for Members of Congress to tell their constituents, "we've heard you and now we're serious about doing something to stop this terrible problem." While H.R. 4822 is not a cure-call for our Nation's drug problems, I believe it could serve as a major impetus in stemming drug abuse in our country.