

AIDS pandemic. France, Germany, Japan, Taiwan, and the oil rich Countries of the Middle East are not providing enough funding to the UN Global AIDS Trust.

I have often heard the argument that we can not afford to treat and prevent HIV/AIDS patients around the world who have AIDS, or will contract it in the future. Nobody on the planet can persuade me that America, and the industrialized countries of the East and West, nations with trillion dollar economies, do not have the resources to combat the AIDS pandemic. But the truth of the matter, and I have seen this for decades, is that the international community will follow our lead if we provide the moral and financial leadership on HIV/AIDS. Again, this has not been the case.

I am also urging my colleagues to call a meeting with the pharmaceutical companies, and begin the much needed discussion on how to bring the price of HIV/AIDS prescription drugs down so that the poorer nations, in particularly those in Africa, can afford to buy them or generic drugs. In times of international health disasters, we must put the lives of people first; and profits second. Sadly, this has not been the case.

In the United States, 950,000 people have been diagnosed with AIDS. African Americans make up only 13 percent of the total U.S. population but 54 percent of new infections. 82 percent of women who are newly infected with HIV are African-American and Latino.

In Michigan, AIDS patients who are dependent on federal programs to help cover the costs of HIV/AIDS drugs are now saying that due to budget cuts, they are having difficulty affording HIV/AIDS drugs. We can not allow this to happen.

It is imperative that we as a nation provide the requisite funds necessary to provide adequate treatment and prevention for HIV/AIDS both at home and abroad.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JOE AND BARBARA SALTZMAN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joe and Barbara Saltzman who were married on July 1, 1962, and are now celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. They are the children of Ruth and Murray Saltzman and Sid and Lillian Epstein, the parents of David and Michael Saltzman, the parents-in-law of Jennifer Saltzman, and the grandparents of Samantha and Sarah Saltzman.

Joe and Barbara Saltzman have been active as professional journalists in the community for four decades, with Joe Saltzman having won more than 50 awards as a broadcast journalist including the Columbia University-duPont broadcast journalism award, four Emmys, four Golden Mikes, two Edward R. Murrow Awards, a Silver Gavel, and one of the first NAACP Image Awards, and Barbara Saltzman having been a member of the Los Angeles Times staff for 22 years and editor of the daily Calendar section.

When their son David, a Chadwick School graduate, tragically died of Hodgkin's disease

after graduating from Yale, Joe and Barbara could have turned their backs on the world. Instead, they mortgaged their house to keep a promise they had made to David. They promised that if he finished his children's book, *The Jester Has Lost His Jingle*, they would make sure it would be published in the way he envisioned it and would donate it to children who were suffering from illnesses.

Joe and Barbara made that promise a reality producing more than 40,000 Jester books and 35,000 Jester & Pharley Dolls that have been donated to ill and special-needs children. The book has also become a national best-seller and there are more than 300,000 copies in circulation. To further their efforts, Joe and Barbara Saltzman have created The Jester & Pharley Phund, a non-profit charity so that they can continue the mission of giving every child a sense of hope, a feeling of empowerment, a love of learning, the joy of laughter, and the desire to live up to The Jester & Pharley's motto: "It's up to us to make a difference, it's up to us to care. . . ."

Barbara has become "The Jester's Mom" bringing the Jester & Pharley's message of hope and laughter to thousands of children in hospitals and schools throughout the country. Joe has served the community as a professor of journalism at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication for more than 35 years and continues to serve as an educator, academic, journalist and administrator.

Mr. Speaker, Joe and Barbara Saltzman have dedicated their lives to helping children who need to hear the Jester's message and have made a significant difference in the lives of so many people who need to find hope and laughter. I commend their commitment in bringing a little more happiness to all our lives.

TRIBUTE TO CARDINAL WILFRID NAPIER, OFM, OF DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA AND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Archdiocese of Detroit, which has joined with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services to stand in solidarity with Africa through the Africa Rising: Hope and Healing Campaign. Encouraging members of the Metro Detroit Catholic community to engage in advocacy, dialogue, and prayer, they have joined this campaign to truly put their faith to work. On Sunday, June 30, 2002, the Archdiocese of Detroit had the distinguished honor of hosting Cardinal Wilfrid Napier, OFM, of Durban, South Africa, as part of their Africa Rising: Hope and Healing Campaign.

Born in Matatiele, South Africa, in 1941, Cardinal Napier studied in Ireland and France and completed a Masters Degree in Philosophy and Theology. Ordained a priest in 1970 and then appointed Administrator Apostolic of the Diocese of Kokstad and made Bishop of Kokstad in 1981, Cardinal Napier's vibrance and leadership was apparent from the start. Serving two terms as President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference from

1987-1994, Cardinal Napier went on to be appointed Archbishop of Durban in 1992. In 1998 Pope John Paul II appointed him as Consultor to the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples, and in February of 2001, he was named Cardinal. An outspoken advocate for HIV-AIDS treatment, poverty eradication, debt relief, and development, Cardinal Napier's outstanding work to create innovative new programs and initiatives for these social justice issues is truly unparalleled. He has taken up the challenge to fight for the people of sub-Saharan Africa and continues to work hard for the advancement of his region and beyond.

I applaud Cardinal Napier for the work he has accomplished and continues to do, and I welcome him to the United States and to Detroit, Michigan. I also applaud the Archdiocese of Detroit for its leadership, commitment, and service, and for encouraging our community to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Africa. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting Cardinal Napier, and pay tribute to him as he embarks on this historic visit.

THE FREE HOUSING MARKET ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Free Housing Market Enhancement Act. This legislation restores a free market in housing by repealing special privileges for the housing-related government sponsored enterprises (GSE). These entities are the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), and the National Home Loan Bank Board. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the housing-related GSEs received 13.6 billion worth of indirect federal subsidies in Fiscal Year 2000 alone.

One of the major government privileges granted the GSEs is a line of credit to the United States Treasury. According to some estimates, the line of credit may be worth over \$2 billion dollars. This explicit promise by the Treasury to bail out the GSEs in times of economic difficulty helps the GSEs attract investors who are willing to settle for lower yields than they would demand in the absence of the subsidy. Thus, the line of credit distorts the allocation of capital. More importantly, the line of credit is a promise on behalf of the government to engage in a massive unconstitutional and immoral income transfer from working Americans to holders of GSE debt.

The Free Housing Market Enhancement Act also repeals the explicit grant of legal authority given to the Federal Reserve to purchase the debt of the GSE. GSEs are the only institutions besides the United States Treasury granted explicit statutory authority to monetize their debt through the Federal Reserve. This provision gives the GSEs a source of liquidity unavailable to their competitors.

Ironically, by transferring the risk of a widespread mortgage default, the government increases the likelihood of a painful crash in the housing market. This is because the special privileges of Fannie and Freddie have distorted the housing market by allowing Fannie,

Freddie and the home loan bank board to attract capital they could not attract under pure market conditions. As a result, capitol is diverted from its most productive use into housing. This reduces the efficacy of the entire market and thus reduces the standard of living of all Americans.

However, despite the long-term damage to the economy inflicted by the government's interference in the housing market, the government's policies of diverting capital to other uses creates a short-term boom in housing. Like all artificially-created bubbles, the boom in housing prices cannot last forever. When housing prices fall, homeowners will experience difficulty as their equity is wiped out. Furthermore, the holders of the mortgage debt will also have a loss. These losses will be greater than they would have otherwise been had government policy not actively encouraged over-investment in housing.

Perhaps the Federal Reserve can stave off the day of reckoning by purchasing the GSE's debt and pumping liquidity into the housing market, but this cannot hold off the inevitable drop in the housing market forever. In fact, postponing the necessary, but painful market corrections will only deepen the inevitable fall. The more people invested in the market, the greater the effects across the economy when the bubble bursts.

No less an authority than Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has expressed concern that the government subsidies provided to the GSEs make investors underestimate the risk of investing in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to act to remove taxpayer support from the housing GSEs before the bubble bursts and taxpayers are once again forced to bail out investors who were misled by foolish government interference in the market. I therefore hope my colleagues will stand up for American taxpayers and investors by cosponsoring the Free Housing Market Enhancement Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEFICIT REDUCTION SAFEGUARD RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2002

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Deficit Reduction Safeguard Resolution. The House Deficit Reduction Safeguard Resolution will allow Members of Congress to reduce the federal deficit by crediting money to the Deficit Reduction Safeguard Balance.

Under current budget and House Rules, when a Member offers an amendment to reduce spending the money saved is left on the table and available for someone else to spend on another program. Members are not allowed to offer amendments and direct the savings to deficit reduction. As a result, there is little incentive to reduce wasteful spending in order to reduce the deficit.

The Deficit Reduction Safeguard Balance would correct this problem by amending House Rules to permit a Member to dedicate the money saved from any amendment to be dedicated to reducing the deficit. The Deficit

Reduction Safeguard Balance only amends House Rules. It does not require approval by the Senate. This Resolution applies to both mandatory and discretionary spending. We have maxed out Uncle Sam's credit card and until we pay down the debt it is shortsighted for us to continue spending without restraint.

This Resolution is about honesty with the American public. A dollar saved should actually be a dollar saved, not a dollar added to another program. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this Resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2002

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 12, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call vote numbered 295.

Rollcall vote 295 was on passage of H.R. 4687, legislation which would provide for the establishment of investigative teams to assess building performance and emergency response and evacuation procedures in the wake of any building failure that has resulted in substantial loss of life or that posed significant potential of substantial loss of life.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this bill.

TRIBUTE TO DIOCESE BISHOP CHARLES M. LASTER 20TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY PENTECOSTAL TEMPLE CHURCH

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 15, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as the congregation of the Pentecostal Temple Church gathered together on Sunday July 14, 2002, they celebrated the 20th Pastoral Anniversary of Diocese Bishop Charles M. Laster. A life-long leader and devoted pastor, Bishop Laster has truly demonstrated his commitment to advancing the mission of Pentecostal Temple Church across southeastern Michigan. As the members and friends of Bishop Laster and Elect Lady Jacqueline Laster gathered to celebrate this special anniversary, they paid tribute to their outstanding years of activism, leadership, and faith.

Bishop Laster has been preaching the Gospel to the congregation of Pentecostal Temple Church, located in Detroit Michigan, since 1982. As his glorious message and ministry has been received, he has shown a special dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of others. An active force in his community, he has worked tirelessly with the Pentecostal Temple Church throughout the years in organizing several programs and ministries as well as working with many organizations around the State of Michigan. With community outreach programs, social and religious events, charity work for those in need, and statewide and national conferences, his involvement with church and beyond has been an inspiration to all. In fact, Bishop Laster's leadership has truly become a legacy, as he

has led his congregation and community to greatness.

Bishop Laster's distinguished service and outstanding dedication to improving the lives of people through faith will continue to serve as an example to communities across this Nation. I applaud Bishop Laster for his leadership, commitment, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his exemplary years of faith and service on this very special 20th Pastoral Anniversary.

H.R. 5017

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5017, a bill that creates an opportunity for the United States to implement agreements with foreign countries to assist us as we battle severe wildfires.

During the devastating wildfires two years ago, both Australia and New Zealand provided the United States much needed help. Following the 2000 fire season, long-term agreements for firefighting assistance were negotiated with these countries. Unfortunately, these agreements have not been implemented because of concerns that foreign firefighters could be held liable for actions taken while providing assistance in the United States. H.R. 5017 removes this barrier and extends liability protection to foreign firefighters providing service to our nation by treating them the same as U.S. employees. At the same time, it requires those countries with which we enter reciprocal firefighting agreements to extend the same protection to U.S. firefighters who lend support overseas, or across our borders.

The valuable assistance firefighters from other countries provide to the United States is not new. For years, the collaborative relationship we have developed with Canada has protected property, resources and lives. Forest fires do not recognize international boundaries. It is vital we continue to work with other countries to ensure that wild fires are prevented and contained.

Just last week lightning started a 450-acre wildfire in the northeast corner of Minnesota, north of the small town of Hovland. Since the risk of wildfire is low in Minnesota, much of the state's firefighting resources had been sent west to help with the forest fires there leaving us shorthanded. Because of our close working relationship with Ontario's natural resource agency, Canadian firefighters were able to bring the Hovland fire quickly under control.

Unfortunately, not every country has the unique and special relationship that the United States has with Canada in fighting wildfires. H.R. 5017 will allow the U.S. Government to develop similar firefighting relationships with other countries around the world and enhance the relationship we have with one of our neighbors. We must help each other. I am pleased the House addressed this issue today and am proud to lend my support.