

ideals in a pervasively secular and materialistic environment. The positive contribution religion can and should make to the individual and community. The obligation to consciously remedy the ills and shortcomings we face.

Working together on these weighty themes which unite us all, would hopefully provide us the indispensable platform to discuss differences of purpose and approach. Our opponents need to know that a wrong kind of medication can be fatal to a patient. So it is with improper means employed toward beneficial ends.

We Jews are not alone in our apprehension, joined as we are by concerned fellow-Americans across lines of religious and political affiliation. Only through such a wide coalition, will we respond most effectively to the challenges confronting the entire American system. A time of crisis is a time of opportunity. May we all dedicate ourselves anew to the kind of America we dare not do without.

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### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 6, 1996*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the experiences of Pamela Ferguson-Brey. She is the Honolulu League of Women Voters Human Resource chair and she attended the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

In September, 1995, I joined women from around the world at the United Nations Fourth World Conference in China. The Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) conference provided a platform for community organizations from around the world to influence their governments to move more quickly toward equal rights and human rights for women and girls. The NGO forum also provided women from around the world with a forum to highlight issues from their neighborhood, town, city, region, and country and brought participants together to discuss local, national, international solutions to these issues.

The NGO conference was an overwhelming experience. From the moment that I first boarded the plane to China and during the conference there was an unspoken acknowledgment, a bond and an excitement between the conference participants. Tens of thousands of women from around the world together for one purpose—to accelerate the movement of governments toward equal human rights for women and girls. While we were strangers and did not all speak the same language or have the same customs, we all shared a unique understanding about our status as women. As women, we know what it means to be denied human rights because of our gender status. As women, we know what it means to be afraid of violence because we are not safe in our streets or in our homes. We know what it means to be denied equal access to reproductive and medical care. We know what it means to be denied a seat at the table when policy decisions are being made about our lives and rights. And we know that in over a dozen counties, through infanticide and dowry deaths,

women and girls are killed because of their gender.

The bond between women at the conference was also a reflection of the commitment that these thousands of women had to make to realize the changes that are necessary at the local, national and international level to assure that women have equal human rights.

At the opening ceremony to the NGO conference NGO participants sang "I'm going to fight for women's freedom, never turning back, never turning back." I think of these words and the conference and I am re-committed and energized to help my own community move forward more quickly toward equal human rights for women and girls.

### TEEN PREGNANCY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 1996*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President's National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

The mission of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is to reduce teen pregnancy by promoting values and stimulating actions that are consistent with a pregnancy-free adolescence. This is a mission that everyone can support. Furthermore, the campaign establishes the goal of reducing the national teenage pregnancy rate by one-third by the year 2005.

I wholeheartedly support the methods and targets set by the President's campaign. If we are to stop the cycle of children having babies in this country we must make the President's goal a reality. The success of this campaign is imperative to the healthy development of young girls and children throughout the Nation.

As poverty is a strong predictor for teen pregnancy, teen pregnancy is a near certain predictor of poverty. In my home State of Connecticut, the Department of Public Health Records reported 3,757 teen births in 1993. In New Haven, the biggest city in my district, there were 354 teen births reported that year. These figures do not account for all the teen pregnancies in a given year, but they do indicate the enormity of the problem and the need for immediate action.

We must instill in our children the importance of making responsible choices in life. Clearly, bringing a baby into the world without the emotional maturity and financial resources to raise a healthy child is not in the best interest of either the parents or the newborn. Discussing the value of personal responsibility and providing information to children on this issue are tools that will work to prevent teen mothers and fathers. The President's campaign expands the scope and reach of this dialogue through the media, schools, and civic activities.

I am a proud supporter of the National Campaign to Reduce Teen Pregnancy. Through education and communication the campaign will be an effective tool to assist young women and young men with the dilemma of teen pregnancy.

### FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 1996*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act which the House passed today in a vote that went largely, though not entirely, along party lines, was an uneven piece of legislation at best. I opposed the bill because I think it represents a retreat from America's historic mission to promote democracy—particularly in those lands that were until recently ruled by tyranny and dictatorship, such as those nations formerly part of the Soviet Union.

But I rise to express praise for one provision of the bill included by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH], known as the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act. I was an original co-sponsor of this legislation, which has broad bipartisan support. As the cochairman of the Armenian Issue Caucus, along with the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], I have worked for enactment of this provision.

Mr. Speaker, the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act would withhold U.S. aid to nations which are blocking congressionally approved humanitarian assistance to other countries. It requires all U.S. aid recipients to allow unencumbered delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Republic of Turkey has imposed a blockade on the neighboring Republic of Armenia, preventing the delivery of food, medicine, and other humanitarian relief supplies to Armenia. Much of this aid originates in the United States. While we may not be able to deter every country in the world from resorting to the disruption of humanitarian aid as a weapon against their neighbors, we can make sure that such countries do not get a dime of American aid as long as they undermine our foreign policy objectives.

Luckily, Mr. Speaker, this provision was also included in the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill that the President signed into law last month. Mr. PORTER and I currently have a Dear Colleague letter circulating urging the administration to strictly enforce this provision of law. While it is my hope that we can ultimately enact the Corridor Act as a permanent law in a constructive, bipartisan manner, I am prepared to work through the appropriations process, as we successfully did last year, to keep the Corridor Act in force.

### BALANCED BUDGET DOWNPAYMENT ACT, II

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 1996*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3019) making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make a further downpayment toward a balanced budget.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to day in strong support of the Lowey amendment, which deletes the provision in this legislation