

County housing more than 7,000 prisoners. Fairfax County can no longer safely house a prison. The communities surrounding the prison have grown too large and as they continue to press on the boundaries of the prison, the safety of the residents is being compromised.

Another important issue driving this legislation is the question of whether resources are available within the District of Columbia to operate a large prison. The District is not a State. It does not have the resources or the tax base to manage State functions such as operating prisons. In the past 10 years, the population of the prison has more than doubled while the budget has remained constant. The D.C. Department of Corrections is jamming prisoners into cells and dormitories that cannot correctly house them. We have heard reports of unsafe housing practices at the Lorton facility, where high security prisoners are being kept in dormitory style facilities. We have also heard reports of improper safety procedures, where there are not enough guards to correctly and safely monitor the prison. The Lorton prison has literally become a power keg with too many prisoners in too little room with too little supervision. We should not and cannot wait for an incident to occur before we act. We should not put our constituents who live near the prison or who work at the prison at such risk.

In the mid-1980's, Jack Anderson wrote a column calling the Lorton prison a "finishing school" for criminals. Since that time, the problem has become worse. The D.C. Department of Corrections cannot afford to offer even the most basic rehabilitation services. Inmates who leave the system are no better than when they entered. In many cases, they are worse off. It is no coincidence that on the same day last month, articles ran in the newspapers reporting the cancellation of the drug treatment program in Lorton and the arrest of a guard trying to bring crack cocaine into the complex.

It is simply unacceptable for us to allow this situation to continue. Our communities deserve to be free of crime, not subject to criminals who continue to move in and out of the system. The inmates themselves should be given the tools to cure their addictions and begin their lives anew, free of crime. The current situation does little to deter or prevent crime or recidivism. With this legislation, we have the opportunity to move the District's prisoners into a prison system which rehabilitates inmates, treats drug abuse, and breaks the cycle of crime and recidivism. We must seize that opportunity.

This has been and will continue to be a true bipartisan effort. The legislation we are introducing combines the best pieces of previous efforts and improves upon them. It offers a rational and realistic method for closing the facility that does not penalize the District of Columbia. It establishes the mechanism for the local community to determine the future of the property. Through the Commission that this legislation establishes, the local community can ensure that the area's open spaces are kept and the impact on local traffic is minimized.

We have an historic opportunity to work together and close the Lorton facility. We must take advantage of this opportunity.

[Press Release, Jan. 9, 1995]

MORAN, WOLF, DAVIS INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO CLOSE LORTON PRISON

WASHINGTON, DC.—Today, U.S. Representatives Jim Moran, Frank Wolf and Tom Davis introduced legislation to close the Lorton Correctional Complex and relocate the current inmates to existing federal prisons.

"This year, we have a real opportunity to resolve the issue of the prison at Lorton," Moran said. "Today, the Lorton Correctional Complex is a 3,000 acre site in suburban Fairfax County housing more than 7,000 prisoners. In the last decade, the communities surrounding the prison have grown larger. The safety of the residents is being compromised—the prison must be closed."

The legislation calls for an eleven member commission that would oversee the closing of Lorton and allow those concerned about development of the property to have a voice in the process. Many Lorton residents fear that if the facility is closed, it will be replaced with 3,000 acres of houses, roads and traffic that will choke the area with congestion. Moran explained, "I understand their concerns, but I do not think that we should continue an intolerable situation because we fear the alternative."

Rep. Moran had introduced legislation during the 103rd Congress that would turn control of Lorton over to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He feels that this legislation, introduced by all three Northern Virginia legislators, combines the best pieces of previous efforts and improves upon them. "This legislation offers a rational and realistic method for closing the facility that does not penalize the District of Columbia and establishes a mechanism for the local community to determine the future of the property," Moran said. "This is an historic opportunity to work together to close this facility. We must take advantage of it."

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 9, 1995*

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Autism Society of America on its 30th anniversary. The timing of this tribute is no accident. This week, January 9–15, is National Autism Awareness Week, and no organization has done more to promote awareness of autism than the Autism Society of America.

The mission statement of the society reflects its commitment to the autism population:

The Autism Society of America exists to promote lifelong access and opportunity for all individuals within the autism spectrum and their families, through education, advocacy, the promotion of research and increased public awareness, to be fully participating, including members of their community.

In 1994, the national office of the society responded to over 12,000 requests from parents, relatives, teachers, doctors, service providers, and professionals wanting information on topics like education, research, programs, laws, and family-coping strategies—all provided free of charge. Each week, the national office handles over 200 telephone calls on its toll-free line from parents and professionals wanting information, advice, and advocacy.

With over 200 chapters nationwide, run by parent volunteers, caregivers, parents, and family members are offered much-needed information, referrals, and support.

In addition to these efforts, the Autism Society of America also runs mail order bookstores housing the largest collection of classic and contemporary works on autism; annually publishes six issues of the *Advocate*, a comprehensive national newsletter on the latest developments in the area of autism; and sponsors an annual conference at which experts and parents from all across the country join for 4 full days of seminars, presentations, workshops, and research findings.

Finally, the Autism Society of America has been a persistent voice on Capitol Hill, advocating for increased Federal commitment to biomedical research. Last year, the society successfully worked with the National Institutes of Health to arrange for the first-ever workshop on autism, which is scheduled for this spring.

Mr. Speaker, as we observe National Autism Awareness Week, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Autism Society of America for its 30 years of service.

RETIREMENT OF GEORGE H. ROBINSON

**HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 9, 1995*

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, a highly respected employee of the Small Business Administration, Mr. George H. Robinson, will be retiring after 31 years of devoted public service to the SBA and the small business community. The exemplary career of Mr. Robinson, the Assistant Administrator for Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights Compliance since 1974, is most deserving of the praise and recognition of this body. His staunch advocacy and leadership in the struggle for efficiency and fairness in Government service has made a difference to countless people, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to work and achieve and advance according to their abilities and accomplishments.

George Robinson has displayed such skill and devotion all his life. A graduate of Oberlin College, he began his career with the Urban League, working to break down racial discrimination in employment by promoting fair employment legislation on the State and city levels and by forging friendships and partnerships with corporate officials.

As chairman of the Northern New Jersey March on Washington Committee in 1941, George and others persuaded Franklin Roosevelt to establish the wartime Fair Employment Practices Commission. His work for this cause caught the attention of the Wright Aeronautical Corp. where he was brought on to help direct the hiring and supervision of 8,000 minority workers.

It was this commitment to the cause of equal opportunity and the chance to help create jobs in economically depressed areas through the Area Redevelopment Act that brought George Robinson to the SBA in the