

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

S.T.O.P.

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 1995

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, on February 2, 1995, I was pleased to be included in a critically important briefing. I was proud to help cosponsor a Safe Tables Our Priority [S.T.O.P.]—Safe Food Coalition briefing on foodborne illness.

Last Thursday's briefing marked the second anniversary of the 1993 west coast E. coli outbreak. Fortunately, a forum was created to allow the individuals and families who have suffered from the E. coli illnesses due to visit Washington, DC, to examine the ongoing epidemic and discuss plans for preventing future outbreaks of foodborne illness.

The tragic events of 2 years ago are still fresh in my mind. While the incident still upsets me, I can only imagine the constant pain endured by the families who lost a child or who experienced the serious illness due to the contamination of ground beef with E. coli 0157:H7 bacteria. That is why I will always be grateful for the organizations, such as S.T.O.P., that seek to change the system in order to right a wrong. When it comes to a life and death situation, every endeavor to correct the system is welcome.

Until the tragedies were highlighted a few years ago, I do not believe that people were aware of the inherent dangers associated with the consumption of raw meat products. It is unfortunate that a number of deaths occurred before significant changes were made to the current food handling processes. Therefore, we must ensure systematic, science-based prevention of harmful contamination into the operation of every meat and poultry plant. Industries must be held accountable for meeting its food safety obligations. I believe that positive steps can be taken by animal producers to processors to retailers to consumers in order to reduce the risk of illness.

The only benefit of this issue is that significant policy changes are being made and will continue to be made as additional information and technology become available. Serious attempts have been made of late to preserve the quality of meat consumption in both our homes and restaurants. I am encouraged that the Department of Agriculture has established the principle that any contamination of raw ground beef with E. coli 0157:H7 is unacceptable. The Department has strictly enforced zero tolerance for visible signs of contamination of beef and poultry carcasses. It is now mandatory to apply safe handling and cooking labels on every package of raw meat and poultry. Antimicrobial rinses and hot water treatments will also be allowed without prior approval of the Food Safety and Inspection Services. After carcasses have passed inspection and prior to their reaching the coolers, last minute rinses and water treatments will further

reduce the chance of reducing levels of E. coli 0157:H7.

I urge my colleagues to support organizations such as S.T.O.P., dedicated to the prevention of foodborne illness. We cannot rest until everything is being done to protect the safety of our food, and ultimately provide for the well-being of our loved ones.

VIOLENT CRIMINAL INCARCERATION ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 667) to control crime by incarcerating violent criminals.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to legislation before the House of Representatives today, the Violent Criminal Incarceration Act. This measure is one of six crime bills that the House will consider to chart the Nation's course to fight crime.

Although I oppose the overall measure, I support many of the provisions in this legislation. For example, I support the bill's provision to increase the incentives in last year's bill for the States to curtail early parole for violent criminals.

It is about time that we encourage the States to require the courts to put criminals away for the full term of their sentence. Truth-in-sentencing is long overdue.

This legislation employs another well needed and long overdue measure. That is, to stop abusive prisoner law suits. Specifically, title II of H.R. 667 places certain restrictions on the ability of detained persons to challenge the constitutionality of their confinement. I strongly support that provision as well.

Nevertheless, I oppose this legislation. The Violent Crime Incarceration Act boosts the State prison grants from \$8 billion to \$10.5 billion over 5 years at the expense of prevention measures like community policing.

As written, therefore, H.R. 667 unravels the balance of the funding for police, prisons, and prevention, which I fought so hard for during the implementation of the Omnibus Crime Control Act of 1994.

Last year's Crime Act clearly shows that community policing works. The communities throughout western New York asked for it and now there are 53 more policemen on the streets because of it.

Furthermore, I supported the Scott amendment to reduce the bill's prison grants by \$2.5 billion, back to last year's funding level of \$8 billion.

TRIBUTE TO JUANITA LOCHNER

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 1995

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Juanita Lochner is a resident of East Greenbush, Rensselaer County, NY. She is currently serving as president of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, and as a member of the Gerald O'Neil Unit No. 1683.

As a member of the largest women's patriotic organization in the world, assisting veterans has always been her priority. Her project this year is called Special Touches.

Because of budgetary cutbacks, the hospitalized veterans at VA Hospitals are unable to receive those extra comfort items that were previously provided. Her request to the Auxiliary members throughout the State is that we give veterans our help. "They were there when we needed them, and now it's our turn to help them," she says.

Through her efforts, funds are being collected to benefit each VA Hospital in New York State.

Travelling throughout the 62 counties in the State, Mrs. Lochner also emphasizes strongly the support needed for passage of a constitutional amendment to protect our flag from desecration.

The American flag has long exemplified the spirit of those who lost their lives, as well as those who fought and survived. Our flag is a symbol that unites us, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of House Joint Resolution 14.

I am also honored to represent Juanita Lochner—a dedicated and patriotic American.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN T. McDONOUGH

HON. WILLIAM P. LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 1995

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 23, the State of Minnesota and the city of Stillwater lost one of our great public servants. The Honorable John T. McDonough passed away at the age of 72 after a full life of dedication to his community. Judge McDonough was born in Stillwater and lived the rest of his life there as a citizen, patriot, legal scholar, and philanthropist.

The Judge was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. His commitment to our country later led him into public service.

At the age of 26, Judge McDonough was the endorsed candidate for Lieutenant Governor in the State of Minnesota on the 1948 DFL ticket headed by Hubert H. Humphrey. Later, he was appointed Probate-Justice Judge for Washington County by Gov. Orville Freeman in 1956 and served as a judge

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