

and strongly support Justice Marshall's belief that the black sailors did not receive a fair trial because of their race.

The court-martial convictions of these African-American sailors was not only a great injustice, but also an event in our country's history that should be duly recognized. Historians believe that the Port Chicago explosion and the following events helped speed the desegregation of the military by President Truman. As we well know, this action earned him a place in our history books as a great advocate of civil rights. However, the men who valiantly protested the conditions in Port Chicago, have had to live with the shame of being mutineers.

In recent years, Congress initiated efforts to secure a review of these convictions based on new evidence that demonstrated significant racial prejudice in the trial proceedings. On January 7, 1994, the Navy refused to overturn the convictions following a review mandated by legislation approved by Congress. Although the Navy found that racial discrimination had existed, it decided there was no basis for overturning the convictions. More recently, Congressmen RONALD DELLUMS, GEORGE MILLER, and myself have urged President Clinton to consider expunging their records.

Many of these veterans and their families have lived with this unjust decision for many years. It is time for the United States to admit to this national disgrace and remove the stigma of dishonor from these brave men. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contribution of these civil rights leaders to our country.

THE DANGERS OF PLUTONIUM

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, today more than 300 people are gathered in Berkeley, CA, in the 9th California District, to mark the 54th anniversary of the discovery of plutonium on the University of California's Berkeley campus. They gather to express their concerns about the dangers associated with the continued trafficking in highly toxic radioactive plutonium and plutonium waste. The principle vehicle for this will be a public hearing on "The History and Consequences of Civilian Plutonium Use."

The event that has brought them together is the Pacific Plutonium Forum, sponsored by Plutonium Free Future, a United States-Japan citizens's organization and the Plutonium Free Future Women's Network, a women's international campaign for safe energy based in Berkeley. They are acting in cooperation with the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center of Tokyo; the Nuclear Control Institute of Washington, DC; the Plutonium Action Network of

Hiroshima and Kyoto; and, the World Information Service on Energy of Paris.

The forum has attracted a distinguished list of participants, including His Excellency Bernard Dowiyogo, President of the island nation of Nauru in the Pacific; Dr. Carlos Arellano Lennox, director of Environmental Research at the Panama Canal Institute of the University of Panama and the former president of Panama's National Assembly; as well as representatives from more than 20 countries, including leading scientists, scholars, experts on energy and the environment, and citizens activists.

The forum also will include a candlelight vigil: to heal the wounds of the nuclear age, fitting held on the campus at which Nobel Laureates Drs. Glenn Seaborg and Ed McMillan discovered plutonium 54 years ago today.

Participants are gathered to consider alternatives to plutonium energy production and to urge all nations involved to cease such programs and to seek safer, more ecologically sound energy alternatives. Ending civilian plutonium use by all nations will ease serious environmental threats and will reduce for all who inhabit the globe the national security risks posed by the potential for the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

I join with the forum participants in highlighting our deep concerns over this week's sea shipment of 1,200 tons of high-level plutonium waste from France to Japan, most likely via the Panama Canal. This toxic, radioactive waste is produced by extracting plutonium from the spent fuel of Japanese nuclear reactors—much of the original fuel for which was composed of U.S.-origin materials.

There is considerable scientific evidence suggesting that the containers in which this waste is to be shipped do not meet sufficient safety requirements, and that they may be susceptible to damage by fire, corrosion, or collision during transport at sea and by the additional dangers of these type posed by their ultimate placement in the highly active seismic zone of Japan Aomori prefecture.

A number of my colleagues have called on President Clinton, Energy Secretary O'Leary, and other senior administration officials to urge Japan, France, and Great Britain—the Governments most directly involved—to postpone the planned shipment until the critical environmental, health, and safety issues can be addressed and satisfactorily answered. Today, I join with these colleagues in calling for the shipment to be postponed until a definitive scientific assessment on the risks involved can be completed.

I also will ask the Departments of Energy, Defense, and State to review their approval of these sea shipments of plutonium and plutonium waste and to seek ways to assist Japan with finding alternatives for energy security that do not involve the use of plutonium.

Beyond raising our concerns regarding the transport of plutonium, I join the Forum's participants in calling for a critical reappraisal of the role of nuclear weapons in national security strategies and the efficacy of the continued civilian use of plutonium in energy production. As we approach the 50th anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is incumbent on the world community to assess the entire legacy of the nuclear age, both positive and negative, and to form new policies for the next 50 years that better serve the world's environmental and energy needs.

I proudly join the citizens of Berkeley who, 2 years ago, passed the first public resolution calling for a plutonium-free world, and who have this week reaffirmed that clear and courageous conviction by organizing this historic gathering.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reflect on the dangers that plutonium poses to our security and the world's environment and, I congratulate these citizens for taking the time to further explore this problem at today's Forum.

RECOGNITION OF REBEL ROY STEINER, JR.

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding young jurist from my congressional district, Mr. Rebel Roy Steiner, Jr., of Birmingham.

Mr. Steiner has just been named a partner in the Los Angeles law firm of Loeb & Loeb, one of our Nation's largest law firms which specializes in the music and motion picture industry. Mr. Steiner was named a partner to the firm's entertainment law division.

I am especially proud of this young man because he is a shining example of how a good education can better your life. Mr. Steiner was educated in the public schools of Birmingham, the University of Alabama, where he received a B.A. degree in history, and was selected a member of Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society. He then attended the Yale Law School.

Many of our young people think it only a distant dream to be able to work on record and motion picture soundtracks with stars such as Vince Gill, Frank Sinatra, and Diana Ross. Rebel Steiner knows that these goals are more than mere dreams, they are all attainable with hard work, and a will to succeed. My heartfelt congratulations are extended to Mr. Steiner, and his family.