

some stage, ask it to make a symbolic gesture in retiring some guns before negotiations really get under way.

This too is cowardly. No international commission (which the U.S. would likely run) is going to ask the I.R.A. to make any gestures on arms until there is parallel progress at the peace table. If the I.R.A. had any vision or leadership right now it would quietly tip off the British to a small pile of I.R.A. explosives somewhere. Such unilateral handover would ease British concerns, without costing the I.R.A. a thing.

President Clinton, who helped engineer the cease-fire, seems to have lost interest and fallen asleep at the wheel. Fortunately, the Prime Ministers of Britain and Ireland are meeting Friday in another attempt to break the deadlock. The fact that the cease-fire in Northern Ireland has lasted for more than a year should tell them something. It should tell them that the people want this new way of life to be permanent and they have given the politicians a silent mandate to make it so. But instead of listening to the silence, the politicians are listening only to themselves.

This isn't complicated. It's time for the British and the Protestants to start all-party talks with Sinn Fein, and for all three to accept an international commission that could defuse the weapons issue until there is progress at the peace table. But that sort of simplicity takes some courage. Sad to say that among British, Protestant and I.R.A. leaders right now there is no one who answers to that name.

[From the House International Relations Committee, Sept. 13, 1995]

GILMAN URGES IMMEDIATE ALL PARTY TALKS ON NORTHERN IRELAND: SUPPORTS SEPARATE COMMISSION TO ADDRESS ARMS ISSUE

(By Benjamin A. Gilman)

WASHINGTON.—Committee Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman (20th-NY) today called for "immediate all party talks" on peace in Northern Ireland, and suggested that the issue of arms decommissioning be addressed by an international commission on a separate track.

Gilman spoke out following meeting with Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams in which the status of the peace process was discussed.

"Efforts by the British government to dictate preconditions or outcomes prior to talks merely obstructs access to the only means of finding a consensus political solution in Ireland, namely the peace negotiating table," Gilman said.

Noting that arms decommissioning has long been a stumbling block to peace talks, Gilman said "a separate track is needed for this issue that could be in the form of an international commission whose findings would be binding, however, such a commission should not become yet another precondition to talks."

Gilman warned that "these past 13 months of peace have been a window of opportunity to achieve a just and lasting peace after a quarter century of violence and bloodshed. We must not allow this window to be shut against those who are earnestly seeking peace."

Long a champion of peace and justice in Northern Ireland, Gilman this year led the Committee's first hearings on the Macbride fair employment principles, and saw their inclusion in the House-passed foreign affairs bill as part of the U.S. contribution to the International Fund for Ireland.

The Macbride principles are aimed at ending systemic job discrimination, most often aimed at the Catholic community in Northern Ireland.

SUPPORTING THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN (BEIJING)

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women was an opportunity for delegates from over 180 countries to take a step toward granting women equal rights in all aspects of life.

One of the major points made at the conference was the importance of promoting programs which lead to women's economic and political empowerment.

Our world today, is comprised of women who are breaking new ground in industry and the professions, and who are becoming integral members of labor forces everywhere.

The conference created an environment where new understandings of women's roles in the workplace and in government were examined along with the difficulties that women continue to encounter throughout the world, such as the inability to own land, the inaccessibility of business loans, and the lack of child care.

The diversity of the delegates experiences and backgrounds raised the world's level of consciousness about women's plight worldwide and provided humanity with a greater understanding of the economic and political condition of women.

Through free discussion and open debate, the delegates came forward with recommendations promoting women's rights and equality for our world's governments to consider.

The challenge for governments and policy-makers throughout the world will now be to turn these recommendations into policies and laws that help insure that the women of today and our daughters and sisters of tomorrow will have the opportunity to realize their full potential, free from oppression and discrimination.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, I was present in the House Chamber during the vote on final passage of H.R. 2126, the fiscal year 1996 Department of Defense appropriations bill. I along with other Members, were not properly recorded as having cast our vote on Rollcall No. 646. I respectfully request that the official record indicate I voted "aye" in support of passage of the bill.

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO "GREAT BOOKS" ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Great Books group. Mr. Ray

Habian, a member of the organization, recently brought to my attention the fact that the Cleveland Great Books group is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The organization boasts members throughout the Greater Cleveland area. I rise today to share with my colleagues and the Nation some information regarding the Great Books group.

It is believed that the formation of discussion groups for the purpose of reviewing the Great Books was started after World War I by John Erskine. In 1927, Mortimer Adler launched 15 adult education courses in New York City to discuss the Great Books. A few years later, in 1930, Robert Hutchins joined Mr. Adler in introducing Great Books seminars into the undergraduate curriculum at the University of Chicago. Soon, across the United States, ordinary laymen with a love for literature began to form and lead Great Books seminars in their local communities.

The first meeting of the Cleveland Great Books group was held in 1946 at the East Cleveland Public Library. It is interesting to note that the first group gathered for a candid discussion of the Declaration of Independence. In the following years, the group continued to examine topics that were popular in American society, as well as in literature. In 1972, the Great Books group moved its meeting site to the Noble Road Library in Cleveland Heights. The group discussions have focused on the philosophy of Plato; the epics of Homer; and the drama of William Shakespeare, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to report that today, more than 400 Great Books groups meet in libraries across America. The discussions provide insight into the personal, moral, social, political, and economic problems of mankind. I am also pleased to note that over the years, Great Books programs have helped to build a strong and lasting relationship between our libraries and communities. With the dawn of Great Books groups, citizens realize that their libraries can provide dynamic platforms for public discussions of historical and popular literary pieces.

Mr. Speaker, on September 19, 1995, the Cleveland Great Books group will begin its 50th consecutive year. The candid discussions and seminars continue to arouse the interest of citizens throughout the community. I am proud to applaud Ray Habian and the entire membership of the Great Books group. As they celebrate this historic anniversary, I wish members of the Great Books group many more years of success.

PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN PRESIDIO PROPERTIES

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1296 is a good government approach to management of the Presidio within the National Park System.

No other park possesses the unique combination of resources and real estate as the Presidio. Because of this unusual combination, the Presidio lends itself to a management structure outside the realm of traditional operation of our national parks.