

John Nicaretta, who was named man of the year by the Bayonne Chapter of UNICO. He was honored at a black tie dinner dance at the Richfield Regency in Verona on Saturday, March 2.

Saturday's festivities celebrated the many contributions made by Mr. Nicaretta to his family, country, and community. Being 1 of 12 children, family holds a prominent place in the life of Mr. Nicaretta. While attending Bayonne Technical High School, he helped his parents by doing odd jobs before and after class. As a young adult, Mr. Nicaretta worked in the kitchen of Balbo's Riviera Restaurant which was run by his family. On November 12, 1955, our honoree married Helen Dragshchuk. The union produced two children Catherine and John. In 1970, Mr. Nicaretta established Nicaretta Construction Co. with his brother Gino.

Duty to his country has played a significant role for Mr. Nicaretta. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in July 1951 at which time he attended basic infantry training and cooking school at Fort Dix, NJ. The following January Mr. Nicaretta was sent to Korea where he was promoted to mess sergeant for the 151st Combat Engineers Headquarters Co., I Corp Division. Previous experience with his family's restaurant assisted Mr. Nicaretta in preparation of meals for 300 men per day.

Community involvement has been a consistent theme in Mr. Nicaretta's life. Through the construction company, he started with his brother, Mr. Nicaretta contributed to a number of community oriented endeavors. His donation to the "Adopt-A-School Program" of Bayonne helped design two programs at the John Bailey School to promote reading and student recognition. Also benefiting from Mr. Nicaretta's generosity has been Boy Scout Camp Louis and the "Cleaner and Greener Project," which plants trees in Hudson County Park. Among the numerous organizations to which he belongs are the Assumption Catholic War Veterans, Bayonne Chamber of Commerce, Sons of Italy and the Bayonne Sicilian Citizens Club. Mr. Nicaretta is an active member of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish where he volunteers his time and talents.

It is an honor to have such an outstanding and caring individual residing in my district. John Nicaretta is a dedicated community leader. I am certain my colleagues will join me in recognition of this well deserved honor.

## CUBAN ATTACK

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues two important editorials which appeared in the Omaha World-Herald on February 27 and February 28, 1996.

[From the Omaha World-Herald Feb. 27, 1996]

CUBAN ATTACK IS U.S. BUSINESS; CLINTON TOO QUICK TO CALL IN U.N.

Saturday, Feb. 24, 1996. Two American-based civilian aircraft, belonging to a Cuban exile group called Brothers to the Rescue, are blasted out of the sky by Fidel Castro's warplanes. Four people are missing and presumed dead.

President Clinton's immediate response is to slink off and ask the United Nations to do something. By Sunday evening, the Security Council is meeting in closed session. Cuba asks for more time to give its version of the event. The question of whether the United States would respond unilaterally seemed to be on hold.

Monday, Clinton belatedly came through. He halted charter air travel between Cuba and the mainland, places further restrictions on the movements of Cuban diplomats in the United States and threw his support to pending legislation to tighten U.S. sanctions against the island nation. He also allowed frozen Cuban assets to be used to help the families of the victims.

But even as Clinton acted, the effectiveness of his previous policies toward Castro came under scrutiny. Under Clinton, travel between Cuba and the mainland had become easier. Telephone links were established. U.S. businesses encountered less resistance from their own government in establishing contacts with the Cubans—indeed, when a move originated in Congress to punish them for doing business on the island, Clinton was against it.

When Castro wanted to attend the U.N. anniversary celebration in New York City, the U.S. government did not stop him. Moreover the U.S. government had urged Brothers to the Rescue pilots not to fly into Cuban air space during their flights to spot refugees at sea and notify U.S. authorities—a warning that the Brothers ignored when they dropped leaflets on Cuban cities, urging that Castro be overthrown.

U.S. concessions made no more impression on Fidel Castro than they did on Gerry Adams, apparently. A few days earlier, it was the Irish Republican Army that repaid hopeful concessions with unspeakable violence. Clinton had given the IRA and its Sinn Fein partners a claim to respectability by inviting Adams to be a guest in the White House. The naivete of that approach became clear when the IRA went back to its old practice of planting bombs where dozens of innocent people were likely to be injured.

The intentional destruction of unarmed airplanes was once considered an act of war. As Patrick Buchanan said Sunday, this was murder. U.S. citizens, flying the small planes, were the victims. Clinton was too quick, in our opinion, to turn to the United Nations. This attack endangers the peace of the Caribbean and is accordingly, America's business.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Feb. 28, 1996]

## U.N. RESPONSE TO CUBA TOO TIMID

The Clinton administration unnecessarily humbled itself by going hat in hand to the United Nations after Cuba's air force used missiles to shoot down two American-based, small civilian planes. The incident need not have required a finding by an international body that Cuba was wrong. That was self-evident. It required only an appropriate U.S. response, firm and prompt.

As it turned out, the U.N. response was minimal and perfunctory. The United States had requested a formal resolution, condemning the assault. Instead, it received a "presidential statement," which required no vote and which deplored rather than condemned. To their credit, the drafters of the statement mentioned that international covenants ban the use of weapons against civilian aircraft.

But any outrage was muted. Diplomats said there was no support for punitive action against Cuba.

Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, called attention to the heinousness of the Cuban barbarism

when she played a tape in which the Cuban pilots expressed joy about their success and made crude remarks about their victims.

At one point, one of the fighter pilots radioed that the target was in sight and that it was a small plane. Ground control acknowledged that it was a "small plane." The pilot identified the plane as a Cessna 337. An order came back: "Authorized to destroy."

Ms. Albright said she was "struck by the joy of these pilots as they committed cold-blooded murder." Her fellow Security Council members, however, showed little outrage.

This should be a lesson to the administration. There may be times when the United Nations serves a purpose. But certainly there are other times—and this was one—when the United States has better things to do than solicit an expression of support from the United Nations.

## THE IMPACT OF FAMILY PLANNING CUTS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 1996

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my dismay and disappointment with recent legislation that devastates international family planning programs.

Although this is not an abortion issue, we have opted to treat it like one. People on both ends of the abortion issue spectrum have argued that they want to strengthen the family, yet the impact of these funding cuts will result in millions of couples losing contraceptive services, millions of unwanted pregnancies, and inevitably millions of abortions. In addition, this funding cut will stymie maternal and infant health programs, as well as education about sexually transmitted diseases/HIV, around the world as agencies shuffle what little appropriations they have.

This is not the way to promote the family. The Washington Post published a Judy Mann column February 2 which addresses these devastating cuts. I submit for the consideration of my colleagues.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 2, 1996]

EXTRACTING THEIR POUND OF FLESH

(By Judy Mann)

Congressional opponents of family planning scored a major victory last week by passing legislation that will strangle U.S. support for international contraceptive services.

Led by House Republicans and backed by the Christian Coalition and other right-wing groups that oppose abortion, these efforts ironically will lead to an additional 200,000 illegal and unsafe abortions, according to Nils Daulaire, deputy assistant administrator for policy and child health policy adviser at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Damage to family-planning programs will be far more extensive than it appeared from early news reports about the temporary budget agreement. The legislation will decrease by 35 percent the amount of money available to spend on international family-planning programs—that is, it will cut the budget by nearly \$200 million. USAID will not be permitted to spend any of its appropriation for family planning until July 1, nine months after the start of the fiscal year, which, in Daulaire's words, will cause a "tremendous disruption in services." It is the only international assistance program