

Interages has so fully come to represent. Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in commending the founder of Interages, Austin Heyman; Interages current copresidents, Jean Linehan and Robert Shoenberg, and all of Interages' dedicated volunteers and workers, on 10 years of exceptional service and in wishing them success in the years ahead.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 7, 1996, during consideration of H.R. 3019, the Balanced Budget Downpayment Act, I mistakenly voted "nay" on the Lowey amendment.

This amendment would have deleted the bill's provision permitting States to decide whether to use Medicaid funds to pay for an abortion in the case of rape or incest. Had the amendment passed, it would have retained the current law which requires that States fund abortions in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the woman.

My vote against the Lowey amendment was purely accidental. I have always been and will continue to be 100 percent supportive of a woman's right to choose.

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250TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOWN OF MERRIMACK, NH

HON. WILLIAM H. ZELIFF, JR.

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. ZELIFF. Mr. Speaker, let me extend my sincerest congratulations to the town of Merrimack, NH, as it celebrates its 250th anniversary on April 2, 1996. It is a pleasure to commemorate such a milestone event and recognize this New England village.

The people of Merrimack have preserved the town's historic past and traditions. Once known for timber and agricultural trade, Merrimack has welcomed new industries that promote technology and future expansion. In the 1980's, Merrimack was one of the fastest growing towns in New Hampshire. This town serves as an economical, industrial, and social tie between New Hampshire's two largest cities, Manchester and Nashua. Though these changes have occurred, Merrimack has not lost its identity and still attracts travelers to its recreational settings and scenic beauties.

I have had the opportunity to work with the people of Merrimack on a number of important issues over the last few years. I appreciate the willingness of the residents to speak frankly and honestly about issues that affect the town. These people are hard working and always concerned with what is best for their community.

Statewide, Merrimack is well known for being a close-knit, informed, and caring community symbolizing the best that New Hampshire has to offer. Allow me to wish the town of Merrimack a happy anniversary, and I appreciate the opportunity to be included in its celebration. It is an honor to represent the town of Merrimack in the U.S. Congress.

TACTILE CURRENCY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. BAKER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that encourages the Bureau of Printing and Engraving to consider making Federal Reserve Notes tactually identifiable by the blind and visually impaired. This legislation enjoys considerable bipartisan support from my colleagues on the House Committee on Banking as well as other Members who share the same interests in assisting visually impaired individuals exert their independence.

In March 1994, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing commissioned the National Academy of Science to execute a study entitled "Current Features for Visually Impaired People." This recently published study explores methods of making currency more accessible for all Americans.

The report concluded that the needs of the blind could be better served if further study on specific changes such as size, color, and tactile marks be initiated.

Currently, the Department of the Treasury is engaged in efforts to redesign the Federal Reserve Note to prevent counterfeiting. Indeed, the new \$100 bill is prepared to be issued nationwide right now. With this window of opportunity upon us, I believe Congress has the chance to assist the millions of visually impaired Americans who strive to live independently by marking their money more accessible to them.

My bill simply endorses the efforts of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving to study cost-effective tactile changes in Federal Reserve Notes and encourages the incorporation of those change in the national currency.

My bill does not cost the Federal Government any money, nor does it impose any undue, unfair mandates.

Such a minor change in currency will have a significant impact on the independence of visually impaired Americans. Further, a tactual mark can serve other purposes, such as being an additional counterfeit deterrent.

Visually impaired individuals are capable, independent people whose valuable contributions touch all of our lives. It is important that all Americans are afforded equal opportunities to perform at the best of their abilities. My bill stresses that importance. I hope all Members will join me to pass this legislation.

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TRIBUTE TO FRED DUVAL

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I read in last week's newspapers of the resignation of Fred Duval as Deputy Chief of Protocol of the United States. This is a loss for the Department of State and the U.S. Government.

Protocol is one of those things in this town many of us take for granted. It is practiced in the breach. If it's done well, it is hardly noticed. If it is done poorly, it could have major ramifications for relations between our country and others.

In the United States, Protocol is responsible for overseeing the visits of foreign royalty, chiefs of state, heads of government, and foreign ministers. It is responsible for overseeing many ceremonial events including meals, events at Arlington Cemetery, major diplomatic gatherings, et cetera, for selecting Presidential gifts, and the administration of the Blair House. Protocol is also responsible for the accreditation of the diplomatic community, and the selection of Presidential delegations abroad.

During his almost 3 years of service, DuVal has hosted emirs, emperors, and over 120 heads of government. He spent 12 days as the host of the Emperor and Empress of Japan. He played a major role in a number of mega-events such as the PLO-Israel peace signing ceremony in September 1993, the Israel-Jordanian peace signing ceremony in Jordan, the Nixon state funeral, the Atlanta Olympics, and the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, where over 120 heads of government attended.

DuVal is widely admired and well-liked in the diplomatic community where he is often representing the President at evening embassy events, and is thought of in the State Department as one of the strongest and the most effective people to ever hold his position as Chief Deputy of Protocol.

Before coming to Washington, Mr. Duval was a constituent of mine in Arizona and has for many years been a friend.

He will be missed at the State Department, and it is as a tribute to him that I ask unanimous consent to place James Morrison's article from the Washington Times announcing his departure in the RECORD.

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RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS VIENNA PRIZE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, next week, a truly extraordinary American will become only the second American in history to be awarded the Vienna Prize by the Dr. Karl Renner Foundation. In recognition of his lifelong efforts on behalf of the human rights of the citizens of the world, Rabbi Arthur Schneier will receive this coveted award and a grant of \$20,000 from the mayor of Vienna, Dr. Michael Haupl.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier is internationally known for his leadership on behalf of human rights and religious freedom. A group of distinguished citizens of Vienna, including the mayor, members of the city Senate, and prominent members of the community, have chosen Rabbi Schneier for this honor because he is an international role model for the promotion of democratic societies.

Rabbi Schneier joins with President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia as the only non-Austrians to receive this distinguished award. By virtue of his international standing, Rabbi Schneier, as with President Havel, has promoted the ideas of democracy and freedom to the furthest reaches of the globe.