

that argument to work. No, instead of blindly throwing money at the world's problems, hoping they will disappear long "enough to ease our conscience, it's time to pull in the reins, make some tough decisions, and provide some real foreign assistance."

Mr. Speaker, we can all learn a valuable lesson here. Our government has an opportunity to optimally utilize our resources in a responsible and beneficial fashion so as not to waste resources but to accomplish the most good for the global community.

AMTRAK REFORM AND PRIVATIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2247), to reform the statutes relating to Amtrak, to authorize appropriations for Amtrak, and for other purposes:

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, this Member rises in support of H.R. 2247 and in support of continued long-distance Amtrak service.

During the 104th Congress this Member voted against a similar bill due to concerns about its possible adverse impact on long-distance routes through States such as Nebraska. In a statement which appeared in the November 30, 1995, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, this Member expressed the view that passenger train service should not be confined only to high-density corridors. If Federal subsidies are provided to Amtrak then it should continue to serve as a truly national system. Federal subsidies from taxpayers from throughout the Nation for a limited, regional system would not be justified.

While these concerns remain, this Member also recognizes that H.R. 2247 contains necessary and appropriate labor reforms and other restructuring provisions designed to provide relief for the ailing railroad. In addition, most important, passage of this reform legislation is necessary to allow Amtrak access to the \$2.3 billion for capital improvements included in the recently enacted Taxpayer Relief Act.

Therefore, this Member supports H.R. 2247 and expresses his hope that Amtrak will continue to provide at least the current important long-distance transportation alternative routes for and across the sparsely settled States such as Nebraska and others in the Northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountain West. Amtrak clearly should continue to have an important role in the Nation's overall transportation.

A TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR SHYAMALA B. COWSIK

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ambassador Shyamala B. Cowsik,

the Deputy Chief Minister at the Indian Embassy in Washington, who will leave at the end of this month to become India's Ambassador to Cyprus. Her departure comes at the end of 2 years of service in Washington and at a time when relations between Washington and New Delhi are very positive.

Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed the opportunity to come to know Ambassador Cowsik in her current capacity. She has been an excellent source of information and assistance and has played an integral role in helping to enhance relations between the world's largest democracy and the modern world's oldest democracy. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Ambassador Cowsik on her work in Washington on behalf of the Indian Government and wish her every success in her new position in Cyprus. I look forward to continuing to work with her on efforts to build peace in Cyprus.

SALUTE TO MARTHA DOMINICK

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Mrs. Martha Dominick, of Gaffney, SC for her years of distinguished service to the people of my State.

Martha Dominick was a school teacher and guidance counsel for 44 years, and inspiration for hundreds of students.

As a member of the Gaffney Business and Professional Women's Club, she worked tirelessly to raise the status of women in our society. She campaigned for the equal rights amendment, helped women compete for political office, taught study courses for women in the Methodist and Lutheran churches, and became the only woman to serve on Gaffney's Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals.

Martha Dominick's fight for women's rights has not gone unnoticed. The South Carolina Conference on the Status of Women presented her with their Distinguished Service Award. She won recognition as the Outstanding Business Woman and Leader in South Carolina. This week, she will receive South Carolina's most prestigious award, the Order of the Palmetto. And this December, the Gaffney Business and Professional Women's Club will break ground on the Martha Dominick Women's Center, which will provide skills and training for women entering the job market for the first time.

Martha Dominick has reached out not only to women and young people, but to her entire community, volunteering for the American Heart Association, March of Dimes, Community Chest, and 4-H Club, and helping families in need. Her love and compassion, her intelligence and wit, and her style and grace inspired all whom she touched.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Martha Dominick is one of my constituents, and I am pleased to recognize her today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATION'S TO THE GARY
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER,
INC. ON IT'S FALL FUNDRAISER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 23, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Gary Community Mental Health Center, Inc. [GCMHC] on its Fall Fantasy Fundraiser. In particular, I would like to commend Danita Johnson Hughes, GCMHC's chief executive officer, on this special occasion. The fundraiser will be held at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, IN, on Sunday, October 26, 1997. All proceeds from the Fall Fantasy Fundraiser will be used to benefit the organization's new children's emergency shelter, the ALPHA Center, which has been in operation since September 3, 1997.

The GCMHC has continued to extend its commitment to serving the northwest Indiana community with the establishment of the ALPHA Center, which is an acronym for "All of Life's Problems Have Answers." The center operates as an emergency shelter for children between the ages of 6 and 17, who have been removed from their homes due to neglect and/or physical and emotional abuse. Referrals to the program come from the courts and the Department of Family and Children Services, which determine how to best continue the care these children need and deserve. The ALPHA Center provides transitional and reintegration programs, such as individual and family therapy, tutoring, substance abuse counseling, therapeutic recreation, and after care services. Prominent in all facts of the center's operations is genuine compassion and concern for the children it serves.

The GCMHC was founded in 1974 as a nonprofit organization with the goal and vision of providing effective lifestyle intervention and treatment programs for individuals, couples, families, and children. The organization seeks to serve the community by offering quality behavioral health care services, administered by an experienced staff of physicians, psychiatrists, therapists, case managers, and office support personnel. Several GCMHC programs are specially designed to address the needs of young people in the community. The center's Placement Diversion Program, for instance, works to prevent unnecessary placement of children into residential psychiatric programs, while working to strengthen the relationship between family members. In conjunction with the Gary school system, the center also strives to address the needs of school-age children with behavioral difficulties through its Act Program. The GCMHC also offers substance abuse counseling to both adolescents and adults.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other colleagues to join me in congratulating the Gary Community Mental Health Center on the occasion of its Fall Fantasy Fundraiser and the recent establishment of the ALPHA Center. I wish the GCMHC continued success in all of its endeavors, as the services this distinguished organization has provided over the years have been invaluable to the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.