

these are merely excuses to prevent the Congress from doing the right thing.

Congress is facing an unprecedented opportunity to end the inequality and disenfranchisement of the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico by enabling them the exercise of the most fundamental right of all democracies, self-determination, a right that the United States has defended as a Nation throughout the world. It would, indeed, be a national shame if this right were not extended to its own citizens.

We must reject the ignorant, fear-inspired movement to stop the democratic process and deny self-determination to Puerto Rico. As the world's leader, one of the main objectives of U.S. foreign policy has been to promote and defend democracy and self-determination around the world. It might be a good idea to begin applying our policies to our own citizens seeking this right.

I am asking for your support when H.R. 856 reaches the House floor. The U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico and every American committed to freedom, democracy, and justice will be grateful. It is the right thing to do.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO TARA LIPINSKY, OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL WINNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tara Lipinsky on her outstanding accomplishment on behalf of the United States of America, winning as she did the Olympic gold in women's figure skating at Nagano.

Ms. Lipinsky, the youngest person to ever win a gold medal in an individual event in winter Olympics history, has made all America proud with her wonderful performances. The grace and elegance that Tara Lipinsky brings to her skating is invigorating, and the drive and determination that she has exercised to develop her talent sets a shining example for all of us.

Ms. Lipinsky, along with fellow Olympians Todd Eldredge, Jerod Swallow, Elizabeth Punsalan, Jessica Joseph and Charles Butler, all Olympians, all trained at the Detroit Skating Club in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. As the Member of Congress with the great honor to represent Michigan's 11th Congressional District, which by the way includes Bloomfield Hills, it is also my home, I would like to take this opportunity to also congratulate the coaches, the family members, and everyone else that was involved that make the Detroit Skating Club one of the best training facilities for ice skaters in the world.

Mr. Speaker, Tara Lipinsky's victory has touched hearts around the world and made the citizens of my district

and across the country extremely proud. We owe all our Olympic athletes a hearty well done and congratulations.

#### 2000 CENSUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week one of my colleagues came to the House floor and said that the planning for the 2000 census was done in secret. I am here today to put the facts on the table so that the American people can decide for themselves. Designing the 2000 census has been one of the most public processes in the history of the census.

Dr. Barbara Bryant, the director of the Census Bureau for President George Bush, began the process in 1991 shortly after the conclusion of the 1990 census. She took over the Census Bureau less than 4 months before the 1990 census began, and she knew that it could be improved. The results from the 1990 census reinforced that decision.

In partnership with Congress, Dr. Bryant began the process that resulted in the census design we are debating today. To achieve a better census design, Congress turned to the National Academy of Sciences.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) testified before the House Subcommittee on the Census in 1991 and said there is a need for "an independent review of the census that is fundamental in nature, a back-to-basics, zero-based study that begins with no preconceived notions about what we collect or how we collect it. For that reason, I have pursued the idea of having the National Academy of Sciences conduct such a review. The Academy is credible, experienced, and more importantly, independent. Plus, I have been satisfied they can pull together a panel of fine minds, capable of blending fresh policy viewpoints with an understanding of statistical methods."

In 1992 Congress passed H.R. 3280, "a bill to provide for a study to be conducted by the National Academy of Sciences on how the government can improve the decennial census of population, and on related matters." That study laid out the blueprint for the 2000 census.

It has been alleged that there has been no congressional involvement in planning the census. But how can that be, when the design for the census is based on a study mandated by Congress? In addition, between 1991 and 1994 there were 15 House and Senate hearings on the 2000 census.

If there has been any neglect, it has been since 1995 when Congress abolished the Subcommittee on the Census. In 1995, 1996 and 1997 there were only 4 hearings on the 2000 census.

My colleagues have suggested that there has been no public involvement in designing the census. Again, I would like to have the facts speak for themselves. In 1992 the Secretary of Commerce established an Advisory Committee on the 2000 Census made up of nearly 50 organizations. I would like to put a list of those organizations into the RECORD.

The list referred to follows:

The National Governors Association, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the American Statistical Association, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the Business Roundtable, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the Federation for American Immigration Reform, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of Secretaries of State, the National Association of Towns and Townships, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, these organizations met over 20 times since 1992 and each meeting has been open to the public.

The activities of public involvement were not just here in Washington. The director of the Census Bureau and the Under Secretary for Economic Statistics at the Department of Commerce have gone to scores of cities and held town meetings to get public involvement. At each of these town meetings they have solicited public input on the plans that they have put before the public for conducting a fair and accurate census for 2000.

My colleagues have criticized the administration for developing a census designed by the experts. I wonder why they would want a census designed by amateurs.

The facts are that developing the design for the 2000 census has been one of the most public processes in the history of the census. The process has included major constituent groups, Congress and the public. The design for the census has been endorsed by experts and nonexperts alike.

It is very simple. In 1990 the census had an error rate of over 10 percent. Those who oppose a more accurate census want to go back to the way it was done in 1990, even if it costs more, because they believe that the errors in the census work to their advantage. The administration has put forward a plan to reduce the errors in the census and make it more fair and accurate.

The choice is simple. Do we move into the 21st century with a census that uses modern, scientific methods to count absolutely everyone? Or do we do it the old way and pay more to get a census that has millions of errors in it? I say we follow the plan of Dr. Bryant and the National Academy of Sciences.

#### ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT SAMPLING

American Jewish Committee, National Association of Counties, American Statistical Association, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, Children's Defense Fund, Arab American Anti-Discrimination League, American Sociological Association, National League of Cities, and Cuban American National Council, Inc.

National Association of Business Economists, Japanese American Citizens League,