

Mr.

PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank both the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, along with both the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education for including many of the provisions in a bill I introduced, H.R. 3311, to improve International Education programs in H.R. 6. As a member of the International Relations Committee and the Education and Workforce Committee, I am well aware that if we are to be competitive in this global economy then we must continue to encourage and support programs designed to educate our students in foreign languages, diplomacy and international affairs. Throughout the years, Title VI has been extremely effective in helping colleges and universities reach that goal. In order to encourage higher education institutions to give greater support to undergraduate international relations and foreign language programs, a provision from my bill was included in H.R. 6 to give the Secretary the authority to fund Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Programs up to 10% of all Part B funds. Also included was an optional, non-federal match of one-third cash from the private sector to encourage more applicants to leverage funding from private sector corporations or foundations. The inclusion of Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access grants in H.R. 6 enables institutions and libraries to engage in collaborative international education projects utilizing innovative technology. This kind of program is timely as universities and libraries are faced with the escalating costs of access to international resources. In light of the enormous need to expand leadership in international affairs and language study at minority institutions, the new Institutional Development grant program was created to strengthen international affairs programs and curricula by providing subgrants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribally Controlled Community Colleges. Also included in H.R. 6 are changes that were in my bill to the Institution for International Public Policy to expand the current junior year abroad program to permit summer abroad experiences. H.R. 6 also specifically provides for post baccalaureate internships to provide Institute fellows with quality work experience prior to pursuing Masters degree study. To assist in the coordination of Federal support for the Institute/minority international affairs programs, H.R. 6 also created a seven member Interagency Committee on Minority Careers in International Affairs. I would finally like to urge the Committee to consider separating the International Education programs and Graduate School programs in to separate titles as the Senate bill does. The inclusion of both programs in one title is unnecessary and causes difficulty in ensuring that both programs are funded properly. Thank you again for your work on this important title.

HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS  
OF 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 29, 1998*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to extend the authorization of programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I am worried about education in this country. America spends far more on public education than any other country in the world, yet our students have fallen far behind those in other nations in actual educational achievement. Since 1960, government spending on elementary and secondary education has increased nearly threefold. However, test scores have plummeted, and the high school drop-out rate is higher than ever.

As a father of seven, grandfather of thirty-four, and former school board member, I have a personal interest in seeing that all children have equal access to a good education. Mr. Chairman, today we will have the opportunity to take a big step forward in this effort.

The truth is, education is no longer affordable for many families. Between 1987 and 1996, the actual cost of educating a student rose 57 percent while the tuition charge rose even faster, at rate of 132 percent. H.R. 6 will help make college more affordable by simplifying the student aid system, stressing academic quality for students, and providing superior training for teachers.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 6 brings us closer to our goal of ensuring that every student who seeks a quality education will be able to receive it. I commend Congressman MCKEON and Congressman GOODLING for their leadership on this most important issue, and I urge my colleagues to support the Higher Education Amendments.

SENSE OF CONGRESS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 1998*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the modern State of Israel, and I commend my colleague, Mr. LANTOS, for introducing this resolution that reaffirms the strong bond of friendship and cooperation between Israel and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, when David Ben Gurion proclaimed the State of Israel, the world was still reeling from a devastating conflict, and from the realization that more than six million Jews had perished in an orchestrated extermination campaign. The embryonic State of Israel gave hope to Jews everywhere

that safety, freedom, and justice could be found at last—and in the ancient cradle of their religion and civilization. And so they have.

And, in the 50 years since its establishment, Israel has accomplished much more than providing a haven for Jews around the world. It has become a vibrant pluralistic democracy—indeed still the only fully realized democracy in the Middle East—and has enjoyed dramatic economic success, even as it sought to achieve security and peace with its neighbors. Throughout these five decades, it has remained a stalwart U.S. ally in one of the most unstable regions in the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, a half-century of friendship and cooperation between Israel and the United States began with President Truman's recognition of Israel shortly after its establishment. It continues today, with our common search for security and peace in the Middle East.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Israel on the occasion of this memorable milestone.

HONORING SISTER LUCIA  
CECCOTTI

**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 30, 1998*

Ms. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 2, 1998, Sister Lucia Ceccotti will retire after 35 years of caring from her duties as Principal and Executive Director of the Marian Center, which is located in my Congressional district. The Marian Center has educated and trained since 1963, many of the mentally handicapped young men and women of South Florida. Her devotion to her children is evidence of her commitment to the ideals of God.

Born in Pisa, Italy, Sister Lucia Ceccotti joined the Institute of the Sisters of St. Joseph Cottolengo at the age of 18. In Italy, she served as principal of a high school, Mistress of the Postulants, Visitor General, and General Secretary and Counselor of her beloved congregation.

In addition to certificates and degrees in teaching, nursing, and Italian language from various Italian institutions, Sister Lucia holds a Master of Science degree in Administration and Special Education from St. Thomas University in Miami.

Outside of the Marian Center, Sister Lucia has served the parish of St. Philip in various capacities since November 1985. She has given her services, love, and dedication to all with whom she has had contact.

Were all people as humble and loving as Sister Lucia, this world would certainly be a better place. We are each blessed to have had Sister with us and we have all benefited, directly or indirectly, from her efforts.

I thank Sister Lucia for her work and wish her Godspeed in her new endeavors. I am certain that the Lord will watch over you every step of the way.