

surplus. Puerto Rico has also initiated a privatization strategy, which is expected to save the government \$1 billion over a period of 10 years.

It is grossly unjust and undemocratic to bind the people of Puerto Rico to a colonial economy and then deny them the right to self-determination, giving as a reason the fact that the Island territory has not thrived fiscally as well as the equal partners, the 50 States. Let us not revive the practice of democracy for the rich and by the rich, but rather let us extend the right of self-determination to the American citizens of Puerto Rico, no matter the size of their bank accounts.

We discarded the poll tax as unfair and undemocratic. It should not be revived to deprive 4 million U.S. citizens of the right to self-determination.

#### THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM WORKS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, Members often take to the floor to talk about our government, how it is working or not working. In fact, I have done that myself occasionally.

Today, my colleagues, I will talk about a government program that does work. My colleagues will hear about how a little funding in the hands of a caring and committed group of individuals can make a huge difference in the lives of hundreds of young people. I want to share with my colleagues today a story about the Weed and Seed Program that has helped transform the Howard Middle School in my hometown of Ocala, Florida.

In 1993, I contacted the Attorney General, Janet Reno, in support of bringing the Weed and Seed Program to Florida. Since then, communities near and about my district, including Gainesville, Jacksonville, and Ocala have received funding through this program.

The Weed and Seed Program coordinates the use of law enforcement and criminal prosecution to weed out criminal offenders in the targeted neighborhoods and "seeds" the community with housing employment and various social programs. I have long supported the goals of the Weed and Seed Program because, Madam Speaker, it is community based and not an entangling government bureaucracy.

The Howard Middle School in my home town of Ocala, Florida, has nurtured this seed into a wonderful product. The school has developed creative after-school activities that keep the students positively engaged. This is important because, as we all know, Madam Speaker, nearly 5 million school-aged children spend time without adult supervision during a typical week. Research indicates that during these unsupervised hours, children are

more likely to engage in at-risk behavior, such as crime and drug use. In fact, the FBI reports that most juvenile crime takes place between the hours of 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Unfortunately, 70 percent of all public schools do not offer after-school programs. Howard Middle School is one of the valuable exceptions. Last week I visited this school to witness firsthand the community services it has developed. I was greeted by the principal, Scott Hackmyer; Joan Spainhower, public relations officer; Dan Greer, safe and drug free school specialist; and Ms. Myers, the comprehensive health coordinator.

I was escorted to a small conference room where the principal gave an overview of the program. During this briefing a student, Sharika Palmer, an 8th grader in the Hair and Nails Program, instructed me on how a manicure program is implemented. Miss Sharon Samuels is one of the teacher assistants hired using Weed and Seed money, and she created the Hair and Nails Program. Coach Ron Nealis is another caring individual who was hired using these funds.

The principal has staffed the school with dedicated individuals who give unselfishly with their time and talents, including Barbara Flemming, who coaches "The Steppers," dancers; and Ms. Weaver and Ms. Faso, who coach the cheerleaders. Together they have created an after-school support group, rich with instruction in many studies and activities, and providing supervision during those critical hours when most parents are at work.

There are sports, cheerleading, dancing groups, chess clubs, and the Hair and Nail group. Unique to this program is a "neighborhood mentor," a program designed solely for those children who ride the bus to school and, consequently, must leave school at the normal time. Instead of depriving them of these special programs, arrangements were made with two neighborhood churches to allow a teacher to accompany these children and use the building for these programs. The principal has received a commitment from six churches to participate next year, meaning that after-school mentoring will reach into virtually every student's neighborhood.

The coach told us an example of a young person, a young man, who was getting D's and F's in school until he got into the coach's fitness and basketball program. Now, I am happy to say this student is an honor roll student. This last semester there are 436 students on the honor roll, and that is nearly double the numbers before this after-school program was instituted.

Not only have the students become better students, but vandalism and police calls in the area have greatly diminished. The principal is to be commended and his caring faculty and staff have indeed put the Weed and Seed money to exceptional use. I congratulate him, the staff, the faculty, and,

most importantly, the students of Howard Middle School in Ocala, Florida for a job well done. Keep up the outstanding work.

#### LEADERSHIP OF USPS FUMBLING ONE OPPORTUNITY AFTER ANOTHER

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I came to Congress as somebody predisposed to support our Postal Service. I believe we have some of the finest men and women in the world delivering the mail, playing an important part in communities in many small and important ways. But the leadership and management of the Postal Service is fumbling one opportunity after another.

One example is their years of insensitivity to relocation issues. Because of the tremendous concern expressed by people in communities across the country, I have introduced legislation to prevent the Postal Service managers from unilaterally abandoning historical buildings and moving to strip malls at the edge of town; that they must obey local land use planning and building codes and give local citizens as much say in how the post office relates to their community as which Elvis stamp we are going to have.

If I ever needed additional evidence that the management of the Postal Service is out of touch with America, the evidence was delivered to my office last week. The Postal Service notified me that it is going to get tough with the Portland Marathon, the largest volunteer marathon in America, which raised over \$600,000 last year to benefit the special Olympics, schools, service groups, the Leukemia Society, and many other charities.

By letter, the Postal Service said that it has decided, despite a perfect record on the part of the Portland Marathon, no prior violations or complaints, despite an illegal search of the Marathon files by its postal inspectors; despite the preapproval of all the Marathon's mailings by representatives of the Postal Service, that the Portland Marathon, this group of dedicated volunteers, must pay a \$5,000 fine or face Federal trial.

What terrible scheme inspired the Postal Service to clamp down on the Marathon? What scheme so horrible that the Postal Service will pursue a case while paying many times the cost it will ever recover from the Marathon if it wins? What terrible scheme requires the Postal Service to bring down its full force on this dedicated volunteer organization without so much as a warning, with no exceptions or adjustments?

The Portland Marathon offered T-shirts and other memorabilia to some

runners without indicating an identification statement in some of its mailings.

□ 1300

Somehow the U.S. Postal Service seems to have adopted the attitude that in its new status as a quasipublic agency, it is free to be dumb, rigid, and engage in behavior which wastes the resources of a dedicated group of volunteers.

In the words of the fabled gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), "Beam me up, Madam Speaker."

#### GUAM'S ACTIVITIES COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS UNDER AMERICAN RULE

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, this week May 1 commemorates the strike of Admiral Dewey in the harbor of the Philippines in connection with the Spanish-American War.

One of the great misunderstood events of American history has been the Spanish-American War, in which most people assumed that most of the activity occurred in the Caribbean, when in fact immediately after the declaration of war, the first strike took place in the Philippines; and the repercussions of the Spanish-American War were actually felt more in the Pacific part of the world than in the Caribbean.

In commemoration of the 1898 Spanish-American War and Guam's role in that, I would like to inform my colleagues about the various activities my office will be hosting in conjunction with various organizations on Guam and in the continental United States. From exhibits to conferences to commemoration ceremonies, the centennial anniversary of the Spanish-American War promises to be an exciting and educational year not only for Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines, but also for those who wish to learn about America's political, economic, and social campaigns in the Caribbean and Pacific areas at the turn of the century and their repercussions today.

I would like to invite my colleagues to view our upcoming exhibit at the Cannon Rotunda commencing May 18 and ending May 30. In conjunction with the Guam Museum, the Nieves Flores Public Library, the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities, the Government of Guam, the University of Guam and dedicated individuals, my office will sponsor this event for the main purpose of educating congressional members and staff, as well as Capitol Hill visitors, on the importance of Guam's struggle, which continues today, to attain full membership into the American family.

Each of the 8 panels will illustrate the courageous story of the Chamorros, the indigenous people of Guam, from Guam's pre-European contact days to Spanish rule to the historical and strategic role Guam plays today in the United States and the Asian theatre.

On Guam, from June 18 to 20, my office and the University of Guam will be cosponsoring an academic conference tracing Guam's journey from Spanish to American governance. Participants from the United States, Guam, and Spain will present papers analyzing elements of the Spanish-American War and the eventual colonial steps taken by the United States to acquire its first possessions in the Pacific. This discussion promises to increase our awareness of just how important the Asian-Pacific region played then and, of course, its vital role today in international relations.

I am also involved in helping plan Guam's commemorative activities with the Smithsonian Institution later on this year.

I would also like to highlight Arizona State University's December conference entitled "1848/1898 at 1998: Transhistoric Thresholds." This week-long conference will involve academic presentations, film viewings, and forums designed to elicit debate and discussion about the effects of the Spanish-American War not only on Guam, Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines, but on the overall American political agenda today.

I emphasize to my colleagues the valuable insight into Asian-Pacific-American affairs which can be obtained from the various events which I have outlined. Whether through print or visual mediums, these activities contain vital information which address issues currently being discussed in Congress today.

For example, the Guam Centennial Cannon Rotunda exhibit in May and the Guam conference in June will not only clarify the Spanish legacy and the American role in Guam today, they will also assist us in understanding Guam's political struggle for self-determination.

The centennial commemorations in 1998, whether they be sponsored by my office or other organizations, certainly deserve a great deal of attention from us. The American family in the Pacific reduced geographically in recent years. However, we must keep in mind that the American role in the Asian-Pacific region has not diminished. And Guam today place a very vital strategic role in the area, an important attribute not overlooked by American leaders at the turn of the century when they chose to acquire Guam.

Again, I invite my colleagues to take advantage of this historic year and participate in the various centennial events with me. Increasing our awareness of the Spanish-American War legacy will only improve our understanding of political, economic, and cultural relations today in the Pacific.

#### SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOL INITIATIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, nothing is more heartbreaking than when a young person turns to drugs. Although the use of drugs by American youth began to level off in 1997, drug-use rates are almost twice as high as they were in 1992.

Research indicates that young people who avoid illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco before the age of 18 are likely to avoid chemical dependency problems during the remainder of their lives. This is why it is so important that we all pull together to discourage the distribution, sale, and use of illegal drugs by our Nation's youth.

The real desire is to stop juvenile drug use before it starts by teaching children about the dangers of drugs and demonstrating strong values and giving them opportunities. That is why I am such a strong believer and supporter in the Department of Education's safe and drug-free school initiative.

Through this program, funds are made available to individual school districts to meet their special needs in educating and protecting their students. These funds can pay for additional school security personnel and equipment or increased antidrug education. These funds can also be used to provide supervised after-school activities. The need for these programs is highlighted by the fact that half of all youth crimes are committed during the unsupervised hours between school and dinner time.

Positive parental involvement reduces the likelihood of drug use among children. Parents make the biggest difference in children's attitudes and values—bigger than schools, bigger than community groups, bigger than the government.

As we all know, most families need two incomes in today's economy. There is no substitute for a strong, involved family in a life of a child. But we can all work together to fill the gap for our working families as we work to protect our children from the dangers of illicit drugs. Our future depends on it.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro