

Suspend the Rules and Agree (Roll Call No. 507): Aye.

H.Con.Res. 331—Expressing the Sense of Congress Concerning the Inadequacy of Sewage Infrastructure Facilities in Tijuana, Mexico: On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree (Roll Call No. 508): Aye.

H.Res. 557—Expressing Support for the U.S. Government Efforts to Identify Holocaust-Era Assets: On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree (Roll Call No. 509): Aye.

H.R. 3874—Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Amendments of 1998: On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Conference Report (Roll Call No. 510): Aye.

H.J.Res. 133—Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal year 1999: On Passage (Roll Call No. 511): Aye.

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Question of Privilege—noticed by Mr. Vislosky on Oct. 8, 1998: On motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair (Roll Call No. 512) Aye.

H.Res. 589—Waiving Clause 4(b) of rule XI for special rules and suspensions On ordering the Previous Question—(Roll Call No. 513) Aye.

H.Res. 588—Rule governing consideration of H.R. 4761 On agreeing to the resolution—(Roll Call No. 514) Aye.

H.Res. 592—Providing for concurrence by House with amendment in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4110. On suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution—(Roll Call No. 515) Aye.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF MAMMOGRAPHY AND BIOPSIES IN FIGHTING BREAST CANCER

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives approved H. Res. 565, a resolution emphasizing the importance of mammograms and biopsies in the fight against breast cancer. Since October is "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month," it is particularly appropriate that the House passed this resolution before adjournment.

Last month, I was proud to work with Chairman BLILEY to secure approval by the House of Representatives of H.R. 4382, legislation to reauthorize the Mammography Quality Standards Act. This important law was enacted in 1992 to improve the quality of breast cancer screening exams by establishing national standards for mammography facilities. Without question, it has been an overwhelming success.

Screening mammography is currently the most effective technique for early detection of breast cancer. This procedure can identify small tumors and breast abnormalities up to two years before they can be detected by touch. More than 90 percent of these early stage cancers can be cured, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

The use of screening mammography provides a ray of hope in the fight against breast cancer. Early detection of breast cancer

through accurate and reliable mammograms can spare women from undergoing radical surgery—and often save their lives. Enactment of H.R. 4382 will help reduce the threat of breast cancer by providing women the tools they need to detect this terrible disease in its early stages.

As chairman of the Health and Environment Subcommittee, however, I believe the federal government can and should do more to support cancer research. Specifically, I support an increased financial commitment to fund the biomedical research necessary to find a cure for breast cancer.

To that end, I have endorsed a proposal to double Federal funding for the National Institutes of Health over the next five years. I have also authored legislation to allow taxpayers to designate a portion of any income tax refund to support NIH research efforts.

For the hundreds of thousands of patients, families, caregivers and friends whose lives have been touched by breast cancer, we must renew and strengthen our commitment to ending this terrible disease. H. Res. 565 places appropriate emphasis on the importance of mammograms and biopsies in the fight against breast cancer, and I urge Members to support this resolution.

EXPRESSING CONCERNS REGARDING INDONESIA'S PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN WEST PAPUA NEW GUINEA (IRIAN JAYA)

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have come before our colleagues and the Nation several times regarding Indonesia's brutal suppression of the Melanesian people of West Papua New Guinea, or Irian Jaya province, as the Indonesian Government has renamed West Papua.

Last month, I welcomed the announcement of a significant development in the Indonesian Government's position on West Papua. According to press reports from Jakarta, Indonesia's President B.J. Habibie agreed to call for a national dialog on West Papua as soon as possible.

The proposed dialogue, supported by Indonesian Parliamentary leader Abdul Gafur and the Indonesian Council of Protestant Churches, was to address a three-part agenda covering: (1) human rights, (2) autonomy matters, and (3) issues of independence.

Although President Habibie's pronouncement was very welcome news, I am disturbed by recent developments in West Papua that have called into question his sincerity in pushing for true reform.

Within the past week, the Indonesian authorities have shown a shocking disregard for political openness in West Papua by arbitrarily incarcerating several leaders and local officials in West Papua.

On October 1, Amnesty International issued an action alert regarding the arrest of Don Falsy, a respected civil servant with the Regional Development Planning Body in Jayapura.

According to Amnesty International, it is "concerned for the safety of Don Falsy who

has been in detention since 29 September 1998 and who has been denied access to his lawyers, raising fears that he is at risk of ill-treatment."

Amnesty International states that "Don Falsy was arrested without a warrant at his home in Jayapura, the capital of the province of Irian Jaya, by local police and taken . . . he continues to be detained."

Noting that Don Falsy's arrest is in connection with his alleged role in planning a meeting in Jayapura to discuss the independence of West Papua, Amnesty International states that "Don Falsy is a possible prisoner of conscience who appears to have been detained for the peaceful exercise of his beliefs."

Mr. Speaker, the arrest of Don Falsy for his political beliefs is not an isolated case. Also taken into custody last week for the association with Don Falsy were church leader, Reverend Augustinus Ansanai, and two local officials, Baas Yufuwai and Marinus Mehuwe. And just yesterday, another prominent Papuan leader, Theys H. Eluay, was arrested by the Indonesian police on questionable charges of subversion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to join Amnesty International in calling upon the Indonesian Government to allow Don Falsy and other jailed Papuan leaders immediate, regular and on-going access to their lawyers. Furthermore, we request that the Indonesian authorities ensure that these prisoners of conscience are protected from ill-treatment, and that they be promptly released from custody if they are being held solely for the peaceful expression of their belief in support of West Papuan independence.

Mr. Speaker, while the Government of Indonesia has committed itself to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—including Article 19 which holds that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression . . ."—the recent arrests in West Papua are a flagrant violation of this solemn commitment for which Jakarta should be condemned and held accountable.

COMBAT TROOPS PULL OUT OF IRIAN JAYA

JAKARTA, Indonesia (October 4, 1998—British Broadcasting Corporation)—The Indonesian armed forces are reported to have ended their special operations in the province of Irian Jaya. The move comes amid mounting evidence of past army atrocities. Irian Jaya is the third region in the Indonesian archipelago where the military has scaled down its activities following President Suharto's resignation.

Pro-independence rebels have engaged in a low-level conflict with the military in Irian Jaya since the mid 1960s. The decision by the armed forces to end the special status of Irian Jaya follows a cease fire agreement with one of the rebel groups. Antara, the state-run news agency, quoted a regional commander as saying combat troops would withdraw but other soldiers would remain to guarantee security.

Major-General Amir Sembiring said a cease fire had been agreed to between the military and the separatist Free Papua Movement (OPM) rebels. "The military operation status has been revoked and our activities will be shifted to safeguard vulnerable areas," he added. But he also said he had ordered the immediate arrest of protesters who had raised separatist flags in the northern town of Manokwari on Friday.

ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE AND KILLINGS

The military's withdrawal follows a new policy of reducing activity in troubled areas

in order to avoid the human rights violations which harmed Indonesia's international image under Mr. Suharto. Combat operations against the pro-independence movement in East Timor stopped in June. That coincided with an offer of autonomy from President B.J. Habibie which has given new hope for an end to the conflict there.

In August, the armed forces also pulled troops out of the province of Aceh after revelations of widespread abuses against the local population. Human rights groups hope the move in Irian Jaya will end similar abuses there. Many allegations of torture and extra-judicial killings have been made against the soldiers who went into a remote area of the province in 1996 after separatist rebels took a number of Indonesians and Europeans hostage.

SOME IRIANS CALLING FOR INDEPENDENCE

Irian Jaya, home to one of the world's biggest gold and copper mines, the Freeport, is a former Dutch East Indies territory of 1.5 million people. It forms the western half of the huge island of New Guinea, with independent Papua New Guinea occupying the eastern half.

Our correspondent Jonathan Head says just as the Indonesian authorities are adopting a softer approach towards dissent, they are facing more open hostility in Irian Jaya. The political changes in Jakarta have prompted many Irians to campaign for an independent state despite warnings from the military that this is unacceptable.

Those soldiers who remain in the province have the difficult task of trying to contain the growing opposition to Indonesian rule without resorting to the heavy-handed tactics of the past.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF MAMMOGRAPHY AND BIOPSIES IN FIGHTING BREAST CANCER

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The statistics on breast cancer present an alarming picture. In 1998, in the state of California alone, there were 17,600 new cases of breast cancer among women and 4,300 deaths from breast cancer. Nationwide, approximately 180,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed this year and more than 43,000 women will die from the disease. One out of nine women in the U.S. will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. This risk has increased from one out of 14 in 1960.

While the statistics are staggering, we can be encouraged by the progress in the areas of research, technology and early detection which have increased survival rates to about two million breast cancer survivors in America today. With over 43,000 women dying from breast cancer each year, early diagnosis and patient education are critical in the battle against this deadly disease.

Mammogram testing can reveal breast cancer at its earliest stage—up to two years before it is obvious in a breast exam. Recently, both the House and Senate passed a measure to reauthorize the Mammography Quality Standards Act to ensure that national quality control standards are met for mammography.

Women can rest assured that under the Mammography Quality Standards Act, national quality control standards are enforced by regular inspection and that every facility performing mammographies will be held to the standards for safety, well trained technicians and accurate readings.

More than one million breast biopsies are performed each year in the U.S. and approximately 80% of these biopsies are proven benign. A recent non-surgical biopsy procedure called the mamotome allows women to choose a less invasive alternative to surgical biopsies with minimal scarring and no general anesthesia. This ground breaking procedure will provide women with an alternative to surgery and should ultimately result in better care and treatment for women.

While early detection is saving lives, we must not become complacent about local cancer rates and the potential link between environmental factors and breast cancer and other cancers. In a recent review, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has concluded that the incidence of invasive breast cancer in San Francisco has been determined to be comparable to other areas in the nation. However, I believe it is essential that the CDC continue to monitor local cancer rates and further national research on the link between cancer and the environment, particularly in light of questions about an increased incidence of breast cancer in the Bayview Hunters Point area.

As a Member of the House Appropriations Committee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, I have requested that the National Academy of Sciences study the status of scientific knowledge of the environmental causes of breast cancer and identify research needs and establish research priorities in this area.

In addition, I am joined by several of my colleagues, to request that the General Accounting Office conduct a comprehensive review of federal environmental health research activities.

Mr. Speaker, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let us renew our commitment to fighting breast cancer by increasing funding levels for research and for breast and cervical screening programs. We must also continue to educate and inform women about regular self-examination, physician examination, and to ensure access to low-cost, effective mammograms.

If we continue our national commitment to research and prevention efforts in the fight against breast cancer, the discovery of causes and cures for a disease that has no apparent cause or cure may soon become a long awaited reality.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE EAST ROCHESTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IN EAST ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay special tribute to the East Rochester Volunteer Fire Department in East Rochester,

New York. The fire department celebrated its 100th year of service on May 23, 1998.

The East Rochester Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1898, after a serious barn fire in the village of Despatch brought attention to the need for a fire brigade. A meeting was held at Despatch Hall and the Despatch Fire District was formed, consisting mostly of local businessmen.

Shortly after a second fire, the village of Despatch voted to allocate funds to cover the purchase of land, equipment, and the construction of a public hall, that was later turned over to the fire department. Later the village of Despatch was renamed the village of East Rochester.

With a proud history of voluntarism, the Fire Department has thrived and grown over the years. Using donations and moneys received from the village, the fire department has been able to update its equipment, and utilize new methods in fire prevention and control. However, the cornerstone of the department's success has been the dependability and generosity of its volunteers.

I take great pride in knowing that a volunteer fire department of East Rochester's high caliber protects families and businesses in my district. I send my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the East Rochester Volunteer Fire Department for all its contributions throughout the past century.

Today, I ask that my colleagues pause with me to honor the legacy of one of America's greatest volunteer organizations: the East Rochester Volunteer Fire Department of East Rochester, New York.

A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR AND ISABEL WATRES

HON. JOSEPH M. McDADE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. McDADE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many contributions of Arthur Watres and his mother, Mrs. Reyburn (Isabel) Watres, to Lacawac in Wayne County, Pennsylvania.

Thanks to the Watreses, Lacawac has a brilliant future, but Lacawac also has a rich history. The property which makes up Lacawac was a grant of land from the British crown to the family of William Penn which was acquired by James Wilson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. In 1849, a large portion of this land was acquired by Burton G. Morss, who built a sawmill and tannery on the Wallenpaupack River at Ledge Dale—then a sizable frontier town.

The tannery burned in 1895, and Morss closed his business. At the turn of the century, William Connell bought the property in order to build a summer estate. Connell began his career driving a coal wagon. He worked hard, saved and bought the company following the Civil War. He later served in the U.S. House of Representatives and unsuccessfully sought the Republican nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania in 1902.

When William Connell died in 1909, none of his eleven children wanted to maintain the estate. They all lived in Scranton, and Lacawac was a long train ride to a rough and dusty coach ride away.