

\$25,000 a year. The UNOS Foundation owns something called the Transplant Informatics Institute, a for-profit company run by organ network staffers. Transplants Informatics is so secret that even some UNOS board members are unaware that it exists.

What does the institute do? The government thinks it markets UNOS-developed software to organ network members. In an audit looking into the use of registration fees for lobbying, the Office of the Inspector General got just that impression. What the institute really does is analyze and sell organ network data to profit-making companies like Fujisawa, the Japanese firm that sells drugs for transplant patients. When the institute has not been able to cover its costs with such sales, UNOS has used its registration fee income to make up the difference. Prospective organ recipients are therefore effectively funding this hidden business.

You'd think someone on UNOS' board would scream bloody murder about all this. After all, the 40-person board is almost half doctors, dedicated to saving lives. But the directors have little idea what's going on. "The board is kind of in the dark," sighs patient advocate Charles Fiske, a former board member.

"We received an annual financial report and pretty much accepted it as written," says University of Oklahoma transplant doctor Larry R. Pennington, a board member from 1996 to 1998. They really don't know how to interpret the data. "All I'm familiar with is hospital sort of activity," admits transplant physician William Harmon.

Realizing that UNOS is out of control, Shalala has put out feelers for a replacement. "I hope we have some bidders this time," sighs Claude Fox, a pediatrician who, as administrator of the Health Resources & Services Administration, oversees transplants for Shalala. The only prospect so far is Santa Monica-based Rand.

Determined to see that Rand does not walk off with the contract, UNOS' lobbyists are pushing for a law that would insure that Graham's group will keep the contract forever. Last month Biley's committee held hearings on a bill which would require the organ rationing contractor to have experience, something no group but UNOS has. It would also allow UNOS' members to vote on the choice.

"Anything that gives them more of a stranglehold isn't in the public interest," says Fox. "It's like giving the EPA to some land-fill company," says Dr. Fung.

It would be nice if UNOS didn't have a lock on this business. Better still if the federal government stepped out of the process altogether and let doctors come up with creative ways to increase the supply of organs. (How about giving people who sign up as potential donors when they are young some priority in getting organs when they are older?) Once there are enough hearts and livers to go around, there won't be unaccountable arbiters holding sway over our lives.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DICK
G. LAM, JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Dick G. Lam, Jr. He has been instrumental in developing and implementing economic and academic development programs. Dick remains committed to improving the quality of life in his

community. Presently, Dick is the President of Operation Salvation for Youth (OSY). As the president, he directs a Brooklyn based organization devoted to helping youth gain digital literacy and access to new technology. In the program, special emphasis is placed on welfare mothers who have young children. The OSY is currently working with the New York City Housing Authority, the Miracle Makers, Inc., and several private firms on the development of a new project.

Dick's work continues to provide a foundation for social progress. As a Senior Fellow for the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning at Hunter College, he worked to develop a Spatial Analysis Management System to analyze a range of urban problems, including transportation, housing and welfare to work issues. Dick also holds advisory positions as the Senior U.S. Consultant to the Tianjin Municipal Utility Bureau, The Peoples Republic of China and the Senior U.S. Consultant to the All China Taxi Association, The Peoples Republic of China.

Our community is a better place today because Dick has chosen to commit himself to urban renewal and development. Dick has accomplished his objectives by working in key positions such as: Director of the Mayor's Office of Midtown Manhattan Planning and Development, New York City, Director of Transportation and Regional Planning, New York City Planning Commission, and Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary, United States Department of Transportation. Our society is a better place today because of the contributions made by Dick.

I commend Dick G. Lam, Jr. and pray that he will succeed in all future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MR. RAMON DE LA
CRUZ, PRESIDENT OF THE HIS-
PANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF
NEW JERSEY, FOR HIS OUT-
STANDING ACHIEVEMENTS THIS
YEAR

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ramon de la Cruz, President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, for his outstanding work on behalf of the Hispanic Community.

An active member of the Hispanic Bar Association for more than ten years, Mr. de la Cruz was recently appointed as the New Jersey Regional President of the organization. And he has shown continued commitment to its growth and success.

From fighting racial profiling and domestic violence, to battling against anti-diversity efforts across the country, the Hispanic Bar Association has been a motivating and unifying force for the Hispanic community in New Jersey under Mr. de la Cruz's leadership.

In addition, Mr. de la Cruz and the H.B.A. of New Jersey have worked extensively with several associations to bring attention to the lack of Hispanic representation on the New Jersey federal judiciary. Because of his efforts and vision, Mr. de la Cruz was instrumental in the recent recommendation of New Jersey's first ever Hispanic to be nominated to the U.S.

Court of Appeals of the Third District in the State.

Knowing the importance of a clear and unified message from the H.B.A., Mr. de la Cruz served as editor of ABOGADO, the official newsletter of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, Inc., for four years. Highlighting the accomplishments of fellow Hispanic abogados y abogadas, as well as confronting the tough issues that the Hispanic community faces, Mr. de la Cruz's work has made the newsletter an informative report to the community.

For all of these achievements and for his remarkable leadership, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. de la Cruz and the H.B.A. on another year of hard work and dedication to both the Hispanic community and the State of New Jersey.

INTRODUCING THE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER CONFIDENTIALITY ACT OF 1999

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Social Security Number Confidentiality Act of 1999. In a time of increasingly easier access to personal information by people other than the owner of that information, "Identity Theft" is becoming more and more of a problem.

Given this significant problem, I found it alarming to learn from senior citizens in my district that the Social Security Administration openly displays a recipient's Social Security number, name and address in the window of the envelope. This same envelope makes its way through the United States Postal system.

By simply taking a quick peek in a mailbox, or in a pile of mail left in a person's car, anyone could obtain the information needed to steal someone's identity. The open display of such private and confidential information is an invitation for scam artists to rip off our senior citizens.

As I investigated this situation, I found that the Social Security Administration knowingly continues this practice. At the same time they advocate the need to keep Social Security numbers confidential.

Ironically, in the July/August issue of Social Security Today, the agency advises us that, "All the information Social Security collects about you is kept confidential: it's protected by law," and reminds us to "protect your Social Security number. Be careful how you use it and keep it confidential whenever possible."

Mr. Speaker, this is a glaring inconsistency that requires immediate attention. My legislation will prohibit the appearance of Social Security numbers on or through the window of unopened Social Security checks. It will allow the Social Security Administration to practice what they preach—that we all need to be careful and keep our Social Security numbers private and confidential. In all fairness, the checks are printed by the Department of Treasury, and my legislation will direct them to change their procedures.

In closing, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting the Social Security Number Confidentiality Act of