

these children and their futures in jeopardy.

UPARR answers a terrible need for these children in their communities. And yet, for the past decade, UPARR has been denied funding by the Congress. Even though dozens of cities and towns filed applications and were prepared to raise the matching funds, the Congress refused to provide even minimal funding for UPARR, despite all the statements of concern about children's well-being and about the need for after school athletics and mentoring programs.

For the past several years, I have been working with a wide range of organizations to fund the UPARR program. I want to pay special tribute to Tom Cove, the Vice President of the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, who has spent so much of his time helping to build a network of people outside of Washington on behalf of UPARR's revival and who has been so successful here in the Congress and the administration in persuading people of this vital program.

The UPARR coalition consists of a diverse array of organizations and interests, including the National Council of Youth Sports, which represents 46 million children through the National Youth Sports Leagues, such as Little League, Pop Warner football; the Amateur Athletic Union; the U.S. Soccer Foundation; PONY baseball; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, especially Mayor Victor Ashe of Knoxville, Mark Morial of New Orleans, and Rosemary Corbin of Richmond, California.

We have also had tremendous help from professional sports organizations and players, who recognize the need in providing young people a safe place to play and learn. I want to recognize our friends at the National Football League, the NFL Player Association, and Major League Baseball's "Reviving Baseball in the Inner Cities" program. We have also had great support from the Police Athletic League, and I especially want to recognize them. They have fought long and hard with us for today's victory for UPARR.

I also want to pay tribute to some of the people in the Seventh Congressional District of California who have been energetic and indefatigable supporters of UPARR, including Mayor Rosemary Corbin of Richmond, California; C.A. Robertson of the Richmond Police Activities League and the statewide Police Activities League; the Greater Vallejo Recreation District and its general manager, Skip Radziewicz; and the Tri-City County Open Space Committee and its chair, Duane Krumm.

Throughout the Nation, individuals such as these have joined together and demanded that Congress provide substantial new funding for UPARR; and this week, they succeeded. When we began this effort, UPARR was receiving nothing, only a few short years ago, not one cent, despite all the rhetoric about concern for our children. So we

committed ourselves to UPARR's revival; and we began slow, finding a couple of million dollars on the House floor from here and there.

We were able to convince the Clinton administration that this was a worthy program that met the President and First Lady's goals for children, and a couple of million dollars was included in last year's budget.

This year the President asked for \$10 million; and in the bill we passed today, that number was increased to \$30 million for each of the next 6 years. I want to thank the members of the Committee on Appropriations for that increase, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS). And we intend to get more, because with this program we can turn our cities around and we can change the lives of millions of young children.

Today's bill, while not the level of funding we sought in the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, is an enormous increase to \$30 million for each of the next 6 years, with the promise of more above that. With the coalition we have built, I am confident we will successfully compete for dollars within the Committee on Appropriations for UPARR dollars and build a network of recreation and athletic facilities throughout the cities and towns of this Nation.

STATEMENT OF ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE, HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL JODY MCLLOUD CONCERNING SCHOOL PRAYER

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, several years ago, William Raspberry, the great columnist for the Washington Post, asked in a column these words. He said, "Is it not just possible that anti-religious bias masquerading as religious neutrality has cost this country far more than it has been willing to acknowledge?" I think that is a very good question.

In light of that, I would like to read a statement that Roane County, Tennessee, high school principal Jody McCloud read over the public address system before his school's first football game on September 1, following the Supreme Court decision outlawing or banning prayer at high school football games across the Nation.

Mr. McCloud said this:

It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games to say a prayer and play the National anthem to honor God and country. Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a prayer is a violation of Federal case law.

As I understand the law at this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexual perversion and call it an alternative lifestyle and if someone is offended, that's okay.

I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity by dispensing condoms and calling it safe sex. If someone is offended, that's okay.

I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an unborn baby as a viable means of birth control. If someone is offended, no problem.

I can designate a school day as Earth Day and involve students in activities to religiously worship and praise the Goddess Mother Earth and call it ecology.

I can use literature, videos and presentations in the classroom that depict people with strong traditional Christian convictions as simple minded and ignorant and call it enlightenment.

However, if anyone uses this facility to honor God and ask Him to bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship, Federal case law is violated.

This appears to be, at best, inconsistent, and, at worst, diabolical.

Mr. McCloud continued.

Apparently we are to be tolerant of everything and everyone except God and His commandments.

Nevertheless, as a school principal, I frequently ask staff and students to abide by rules with which they do not necessarily agree. For me to do otherwise would be at best inconsistent and at worst hypocritical. I suffer from that affliction enough unintentionally. I certainly do not need to add an intentional transgression.

For this reason, I shall "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's" and refrain praying at this time. However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank God and to ask Him in the name of Jesus to bless this event, please feel free to do so. As far as I know, that is not against the law yet.

That is the statement by Roane County, Tennessee, High School Principal Jody McCloud.

I can tell you that we open up every session of the House and Senate with prayer, but it is unfortunate, the recent Supreme Court decision.

I commend Roane County, Tennessee, High School Principal Jody McCloud for this very fine statement, and I close by asking the question that William Raspberry asked a few years ago in his column, is it not just possible that anti-religious bias, masquerading as religious neutrality, has cost this Nation far more than it has been willing to acknowledge?

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RESTORE FEDERAL RECOGNITION TO THE MIAMI NATION OF INDIANA

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I have introduced a bill to restore the Federal recognition to the Miami Nation of Indiana.

The Miami Nation of Indiana is one of our most historic Indian nations. Unfortunately, it is not currently recognized by the Federal Government. It is an ironic situation that we face. When Anthony Wayne won the battle of Fallen Timbers that lead directly to the Treaty of Greenville in 1795, the Miami Nation, at that point a defeated nation, entered into negotiations over a period of time with William Henry