

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF NMMI TV

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 20th anniversary of New Mexico Military Institute Television Productions in Roswell, NM. New Mexico is proud to have on the finest military schools in the country, New Mexico Military Institute. NMMI is known for academic excellence, offering one of the few 2-year Army Officer Commissioning Programs in the United States, and having a tough curriculum for the development of strength and character of the young men and women who attend NMMI from literally all around the world. In addition to this, NMMI has contributed greatly to its local community, through, among other things, outstanding television broadcasting produced at NMMI.

This school year NMMI Television Productions will begin its 20th season of providing the Roswell community with local and original broadcasting. Over 300 cadets, and numerous local citizens-as-program hosts and other community volunteers have been a part of this effort. Their programming ranges from community services, retirement programs and activities, bilingual awareness shows, sports, medicine, news, recreation and other programs of interest for and about Roswell. I commend NMMI-TV Productions for providing this additional technical and educational program as part of an experience-by-doing learning laboratory for cadets interested in the field of television broadcasting.

Recently, the superintendent of NMMI, Lt. Gen. Robert D. Beckel, came and briefed me on the many wonderful accomplishments and improvements taking place at NMMI. NMMI Television Productions is clearly an example of this excellence and what they are doing for the men and women attending their institution as well the local community. I am attaching an article from the Roswell Daily Record that explains in detail the exceptional work being done by this unique program. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting NMMI and NMMI Television Productions for their all-around dedication to the NMMI Corps of Cadets and the community of Roswell.

[From the Roswell Daily Record, Sept. 8, 1996]

NMMI BROADCASTS 20TH YEAR OF TV PRODUCTION

(By Marifrank DaHarb)

Lights . . . camera . . . and ACTION begins Tuesday as the New Mexico Military Institute TV Productions enters its 20th season on the air.

Under the supervision of executive producer Col. Bruce McLaren and director of broadcasting Lt. Col. Cory Woodbury, the NMMI programming airs on cable channel 11 every Tuesday night during the academic year.

"We share the channel with Community Calendar, First Baptist Church and Roswell City Council meetings," McLaren said. He also said they can offer local programming and a link to satellite teleconferences and telecourses to the community, Roswell schools and Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell as well as the institute.

"We've been on the telecommunications cutting edge for 20 years," McLaren said,

"hosting numerous broadcast events and now extending into such new areas as a proposed additional downlink site from Eastern, the new Western Governors University and availability as a node in the new statewide telecommunications network now in the planning stages."

McLaren said the NMMI program's focus has always been on cadet training, sometimes for school credit and sometimes for fun.

"We have 27 volunteer cadets right now," he said, "and a waiting list."

College sophomore Estevan Padilla of Espanola is in his third year at the institute but this is his first year of involvement with TV production. "My friend, Mike, got me into it," he said. "It's my first experience with television, but I was already in audio as a member of the VMV Club which is open to everyone, not just for cadets."

"We set up for dances and other performers such as comedians, singers, bands, whatever they need us for."

Padilla's friend, Mike Ulanski of Wahiawa, Hawaii, also a sophomore and in his third year, said, "I did this all last year, including special projects like taping alumni activities during Homecoming and the superintendent's retirement party. We'll tape anything as long as it's approved by Col. McLaren."

Ulanski explained the cadets rotate responsibilities. "For one show, you might be director," he said. "For the next one you might be in charge of audio."

Mark Jacobs of Albuquerque is in his third year at NMMI and is a junior in high school. This is his second year in TV production. "I think I'm very interested in taking this another step," he said.

Lt. Col. Woodbury believes the experience can be invaluable, even if it's not a career goal. "One cadet who graduated from here worked his way through college working for PBS (Public Broadcasting System)."

Martha Ortiz of El Paso, a college freshman, said she had been at NMMI some 21 days. She got interested in TV production after learning about it at an event in the gym showcasing campus activities. "I like it a lot," she said. "It's very interesting."

The programs offered have a variety of interests for public viewing. Dori Lenz Wagner is no stranger to the production end, having been a frequent guest on Diane Holdson's "How To . . ." But this fall her own show, "Quilting," debuts. The nationally known quilting instructor will teach four different patterns—Fancy Three Patch, Mandevilla, Attic Window and Snowball—as well as how to finish a quilt. Everything will be machine pieced with rotary cutting.

"This is the first time they've done a quilting show," she said. "I think it'll be fun and I'm looking forward to it."

Wagner's six shows will alternate weeks with newcomer Bo Shero. Shero's program is on woodcarving. "I plan to take them through a full project of carving a bluebird," he said, "including all the techniques for attaching the wings, heads and feet and painting and sharpening tools."

Shero is new to Roswell as well as NMMI-TV. He spent five years as a guest woodcarver at Silver Dollar City in Branson, MO, where people demonstrate how things were done in the Ozarks in the 1890s.

"We think we have a good line-up this fall," McLaren said. "But we'd like to be able to offer shows for the home handyman and the Roswell gardener or something like 'New Mexico Out-of-Doors' and 'Learning to play . . . whatever musical instrument.' We're limited only by the availability of program hosts."

"LINKED FINANCING"—A NEW CONCEPT IN AVIATION FUNDING

HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the purpose of introducing legislation to establish an innovative new funding mechanism for the Federal Aviation Administration. We've named this new funding mechanism Linked Financing and I'm introducing the legislation at this obviously late date to ensure interested committees such as the Budget, Ways and Means and Transportation Committees, as well as organizations such as the National Civilian Aviation Review Commission, will have an opportunity to study and consider this interesting concept before work begins again next year on the controversial issue of FAA financing reform.

This concept known as Linked Financing is something I've worked on with my friends at the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). AOPA has devoted substantial time and effort to refining the idea, and I believe it holds considerable promise for addressing the future funding needs of our Nation's air transportation system. It's based on a simple premise. That is, the services provided by the FAA are an essential Government function largely financed by the users of the system. As we know, under existing budget rules the cap on discretionary spending and the trade-offs it requires, sometimes constrain our ability to fully fund programs which are largely funded by the users.

This situation cries out for a fresh approach. Next year, Congress will begin to debate a number of issues closely tied to the future of aviation funding. The House, in an overwhelming vote to take the transportation trust funds off budget, has sent the clear signal that it wants transportation trust fund monies fully spent for the intended purpose. An internal fight among airlines for market share has crept into Congress and will likely cause a reexamination of the current airline ticket tax structure. Finally, the Clinton administration, in an attempt to use more discretionary spending to fund its liberal social agenda, has created what I believe is an artificial FAA funding crisis in order to justify a new aviation tax structure.

All of these issues contain potential pitfalls. Taking the transportation trust funds out of the unified budget process could send a mixed signal as we seek to balance the Federal budget over the next 7 years. It remains to be seen whether readjusting the airline ticket tax structure will increase either safety or savings to the traveling public. The administration has not been able to adequately demonstrate its alleged aviation funding shortfall. And its proposed solution, new aviation taxes, has a number of additional problems. They are costly to collect, they can disrupt the financial planning of the airlines, they have safety implications, and—most important—FAA would have little direct accountability to Congress for how the agency spends the money.

Linked Financing is a better alternative. This plan would provide FAA the funding the administration says it needs, but, unlike imposing the administration's proposed new aviation taxes, would not circumvent the current budget process.

Linked Financing would retain the excise taxes which airway system users now pay on airline tickets, fuel, and cargo. These taxes would continue to feed the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. This Trust Fund is for aviation spending only, and it finances most of the FAA's budget.

Under Linked Financing, what aviation users pay in taxes for a given year would depend on what Congress allowed the FAA to spend the year before. When the FAA's spending goes up, the taxes collected would be adjusted upwards by a corresponding amount the following year, according to a predetermined formula. An upper limit on the tax rates would keep the rates at a reasonable level. The objective is for tax revenues to match spending from year to year. We think most of the necessary growth in tax revenue would result from aviation industry growth, not tax rate increases. But the formula would provide for an adjustment in the tax rates, if necessary.

When FAA spending drops, tax rates would drop automatically the following year to reflect the decrease. This would ensure that system users will not pay for non-existent services.

Linked Financing also addresses the constraints imposed by the discretionary spending cap. Under the current rules, additional revenue doesn't automatically lead to additional spending. Why? Because spending is capped, regardless of how much money the government takes in.

The purpose of the spending cap is to control the deficit by cutting Government spending instead of raising taxes. However, under Linked Financing, aviation users would pay for the increased spending for FAA—not other taxpayers.

Therefore, the Linked Financing plan establishes an annual Trust Fund reserve account which would be available to the appropriations committees to supplement the resources otherwise available to them within the discretionary cap. This Annual Reserve Account would be outside the discretionary cap, so the discretionary cap would not limit the ability of Congress to spend the funds deposited in the Reserve Account. The amount deposited in the Annual Reserve Account each year would be equal to the annual increase in Aviation Trust Fund revenue, if any.

Linked Financing assures that the taxes that aviation users pay are promptly spent for aviation purposes. And it does this without major changes to the current budget process or the ability of Congress to oversee FAA's spending.

As an innovative mechanism for using dedicated taxes—taxes collected for a specific purpose—Linked Financing could offer a solution for other user financed Government programs, as well.

This is an interesting idea, Mr. Speaker, which deserves serious consideration. The challenges facing aviation are not going to go away and I urge my colleagues to give this proposal their attention as we begin to debate these issues in the final days of this Congress as well as the 105th Congress.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to take a moment before the Congress adjourns for the year to congratulate our friends and allies in the Republic of China as they prepare to celebrate their National Day on October 10.

As my colleagues know, the Taiwanese people recently made history as they successfully and peacefully held the first Democratic elections in over four thousand years of Chinese history. President Lee Teng Hui and the people of the Republic of China are to be commended for that landmark achievement.

I join with my colleagues in the Congress and my many Taiwanese-American friends in Cincinnati and around the country in congratulating the people of the Republic of China on this, the 85th anniversary of their National Day.

TRIBUTE TO ALAN G. HEVESI

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the stalwart efforts of Alan Hevesi, who, as New York City's 41st comptroller has fought to ensure financial integrity in the budgetary process. A veteran of the State Assembly, Alan has been involved in the negotiation and passage of 18 balanced budgets.

Alan Hevesi has been a champion of affordable health care, education reform, and the rights of people with disabilities. His efforts were instrumental in passing legislation that cracked down on Medicaid fraud and nursing home abuses.

Under Alan Hevesi's administration, the number of audits conducted by the comptroller's office has doubled, generating \$42 million in direct cash savings for the city of New York. Other efforts he has directed resulted in the elimination of individuals from welfare and their placement in meaningful jobs. Additionally, pension funds for which the comptroller is a trustee and advisor, are ranked in the top quartile for performance and the bottom quartile for costs.

The stellar performances of this exceptional individual are attributable to his vast energy, commitment, professional and academic training. He received his undergraduate academic training from Queens College, and his Ph.D in public law and government from Columbia University.

Alan Hevesi and his wife Carol have three children, Laura, Daniel, and Andrew. I am pleased to recognize his vast contributions and to introduce him to my House colleagues.

A VETERAN INSTRUCTOR SHARES HER EXPERIENCES IN THE CLASSROOM

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues an article that appeared in the Sunday, September 22 edition of the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal in my hometown of Tupelo, MS. Claudia Hopkins is a fifth grade teacher at King Intermediate School in Tupelo. She was recently asked to talk about her career as a teacher before the Tupelo Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs. Her comments reaffirm my long-held feelings that classroom teachers are the most important part of education.

A VETERAN INSTRUCTOR SHARES HER EXPERIENCES IN THE CLASSROOM

(By Claudia Hopkins)

I never planned to teach. I didn't want to. My mother was a career teacher, my father had been a teacher at different times in my life, my aunts were teachers, and I just wasn't interested. I didn't like teachers! They were always so intrusive! I think I was like Winston Churchill who said, "Personally, I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like to be taught."

I wanted to be a writer, and that's the employment I was seeking as a new college graduate 27 years ago in Nashville. I was scheduled for my second interview for a copywriter's position when I came home for the Labor Day weekend to find that the principal of a little school outside of Nashville had called saying he needed a fourth grade teacher. There was only one drawback, he said. My room would be on the stage. Well, those of you who know me can appreciate the irony in that! And, sure enough, without really knowing why, I canceled my copywriting interview, took that teaching job and with the exception of seven years, have been "on the stage" ever since!

Often I've felt just like Dolly Levi with a business card and a solution for every problem! A teacher makes so many decisions for so many people in one day—our profession ranks second in the number of immediate decisions that must be made every day. Air traffic controllers are first! They also have the highest suicide rate, but I don't want to dwell on that!

II. "GETTING TO KNOW YOU."

It didn't take me very long that first year to realize that if I wanted my students to be successful, I couldn't teach them as if they were all round pegs to fit into round holes. Some of them are square pegs, some are diamond-shaped—all are unique. I began to read and study and observe. Somewhere along the way, I read what a student had written, and the words had a profound effect on my teaching:

"Can't nobody teach me who don't know me and won't learn me." Let me repeat that: "Can't nobody teach me who don't know me and won't learn me."

Wow, what a powerful statement! I began to try to get to know each one of my students—to search out the learning style unique to each one—to find just the right way to help each child experience success. It's a hard task—often an exhausting one and one I'm still trying to master.

I guess the most outstanding example of tailoring education to fit the child was Fred. Fred was an older boy who'd been held back several years. By the time he was in the