

Honorable Ed Madigan. In the Congress, we use the term "honorable" as a matter of decorum and protocol; but when I think of my friend and colleague Ed Madigan, the word "honorable" is truly appropriate.

Having served with Ed since coming to Congress, I invariably found him to be a shining example of decency and civility in an environment that, all too often, can be adversarial and contentious. He was a consensus builder—one who warranted respect on both sides of the aisle as a reliable, sincere, and extremely capable statesman who stood tall and proud on behalf of his fundamental values, his constituents, and his country.

As a fellow member of the House Agriculture Committee, Ed was a joy to work with in developing and deliberating our Nation's agriculture policy. He worked tirelessly on behalf of farmers and ranchers and all that rural America represents. Having earned the respect and admiration for his years of service in Congress, he was suitably appointed to the President's Cabinet as this Nation's 24th Secretary of Agriculture, where he again served with dignity and honor on behalf of the agriculture community and consumers of food and fiber. Without question, Ed has left an indelible legacy and high standard for which all of us should strive to follow.

Although I join the countless many in expressing regret and sorrow for a tremendous loss, I consider us all to be extremely blessed with the opportunity to have known and worked with the Honorable Ed Madigan.

TRIBUTE TO RON ESAU

HON. NORMAN Y. MINETA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a dedicated public servant and a personal friend. As Ron Esau retires from his position as general manager of the Santa Clara Water District, in San Jose, CA, this month, he caps a remarkable career as a major water resources force in Santa Clara County. This is a man whose interest in public service is so important to him that he made it his duty for more than half of his life.

Since 1957, Ron Esau has been serving the citizens of Santa Clara County. He first joined the Santa Clara Valley Water District as an assistant civil engineer and has held various posts, including assistant general manager, until appointment to his present position as general manager.

During his 37 years of dedicated service, Ron Esau has been appointed to numerous directorships on water boards across the State including the State Water Contractors, the Central Valley Project Water Association, the California Water Resources Association, the California Urban Water Agencies, the Western Urban Water Coalition, the Bay Policy Board, and others.

Aside from his prestige as a high-ranking water resources and community official, Mr. Esau has also been praised for the substantial contributions he has made as a hard-working volunteer. He is known for the work he has done as a cabinet member of the United Way

of Santa Clara County, and for his extensive work with his church.

Despite the water wars that raged in our State for years, Ron Esau has been a voice of reason with an eye to the future for how we work well to develop a reliable water supply for Santa Clara County. One of the greatest strengths Mr. Esau brought to our valley was the need to expand the diversity of our water supply base to deal with the growth of our county and the realities of drought. His thoughtful approach of developing a mix of water supplies led this county through the recent critical drought experience relatively unscathed in a much stronger position than many areas around us. This feat is a testament to his leadership and vision.

Ron Esau is a principled and honest leader and a devoted father and husband. I know that whatever area of endeavor he chooses next, he will excel. I want to wish Ron and Connie and the rest of his family all the best in the future, and thank him for the wonderful achievements and progress he has left for us to remember him by.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, official business kept me from the Chamber during the vote on the amendment offered by my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. KANJORSKI. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 53.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the National Commission on Professional Baseball Act of 1995. The legislation creates a temporary regulatory authority to oversee the conduct of professional baseball to assure that our national pastime will remain available and responsive to the American public.

Like all baseball fans, I have found the events of the past year extremely disheartening. We witnessed labor negotiations that focused more on outlandish demands by both owners and players that on tangible objectives, a baseball strike that halted all major league play after August 12 and, for the first time in 90 years, the cancellation of a World Series. Recently, the major league team owners unilaterally imposed a cap on player salaries that could also jeopardize the 1995 baseball season. All these events have taken place behind closed doors, in secret negotiations without representation of, and little apparent regard for, the interests of those who pay the cost of professional baseball—baseball fans and taxpayers.

These events tend to confirm the most negative images of major league baseball in

the press as big business dominated by the interests of obstinate team owners and overpaid players. But baseball has always been more than just a business. Last year's PBS special on the history of baseball by Ken Burns offered a timely reminder that baseball is an important American institution and an historic national treasure. For more than 100 years, baseball has been one of the few constants in a changing American society. It has been the measure by which generations of Americans have recalled their past, identified their heroes and defined their values and aspirations.

Today, the values and traditions of baseball are at risk for future generations. In the struggle for financial dominance between major league owners and players, nowhere are the interests of baseball fans represented in any negotiation. Ticket and concession prices are now so high that the Nation's pastime, if available at all locally, is priced out of the reach of growing numbers of American families. Even watching baseball on commercial television, the only way many families now enjoy major league games, could be eliminated if broadcast rights are sold to pay-per-view television.

It is clear that baseball owners and players will continue to look out only for their own needs. But there is a crying need for someone to look out for the interests of fans, of taxpayers and of the communities in which both major league and minor league baseball is played. It is time for Congress to take steps to return baseball to the American people.

The legislation I am introducing today seeks to accomplish this by creating an independent National Commission on Professional Baseball. The Commission would serve as a temporary regulatory body and impartial arbitrator to oversee the conduct of professional baseball until the legal status of major league baseball can be redefined either by negotiation or by congressional legislation. Its purpose is simple—to provide a measure of protection for the interests of baseball fans and taxpayers against the near absolute control over baseball exercised by the major league baseball owners.

Major league baseball is unique among professional sports and American business in the broad exemption it enjoys from legal challenge under the Nation's antitrust laws. Major league team owners have, in effect, the ability to write all their own rules and to impose these rules on the public. No outside regulatory authority, nor any form of internal self-regulatory control, now exists to check this exercise of take-it-or-leave-it market power by major league baseball.

The current player strike is the most obvious result of this unchecked exercise of market power. Where once baseball's antitrust exemption was instrumental in allowing baseball to expand and create playing opportunities, it now encourages labor disputes and deadlock. In every renegotiation of the major league players agreement since 1972—in eight separate negotiations in 22 years—agreement was not reached without either a strike or a lock-out.

But the problems created by the major league's exemption from legal challenge go beyond the labor disputes it fosters between owners and players and its exclusiveness and