

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CHANGES IN THE MEDICARE PART B PROGRAM FOR FEHBP MEMBERS

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. BORSKI. I rise today to express my concern about the proposed changes in the Medicare part B prescription drug benefit program for our Federal employees and retirees.

Effective January 1, 1996, many Federal retirees receiving medical benefits through Blue Cross/Blue Shield will be forced to obtain their prescription drugs from mail-order drug companies or be required to pay an additional 20 percent copayment for their prescription drugs acquired from their neighborhood druggist. As a result, over 1 million of our Nation's seniors may no longer be able to afford to have the convenience and security of receiving their prescription drugs from their neighborhood, preferred-network pharmacies.

On January 1, Federal employees and retirees who receive retail pharmacy benefits from the Medicare part B program of the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program [FEHBP] Blue Cross/Blue Shield standard option will no longer have their 20-percent coinsurance drug deductible waived if they choose to receive their drugs from their local pharmacy. Only those members who receive their prescription drugs through mail-order drug companies will be entitled to retain the waiver available under current law. As a result, many of our Nation's retired Federal employees will no longer be able to afford the safety and convenience of receiving their prescription drugs from their neighborhood druggists.

Mr. Speaker, by raising the cost of prescription drugs by 20 percent, Blue Cross/Blue Shield is economically forcing many of our Nation's seniors into receiving their prescription drugs from anonymous mail-order drug companies. By removing trusted, local druggists from the picture, Blue Cross/Blue Shield is creating a potentially dangerous situation for many of our retired Federal employees.

First, Federal retirees, like most senior citizens, use prescription drugs more frequently than any other age group. Many of the drugs taken by the elderly are so dramatically important that should a senior citizen mistakenly forget to reorder his or her medication, or accidentally spill the medication in the sink, the consequences of not being able to acquire or afford immediate replacement of the prescription would be life threatening.

In addition, senior citizens are more likely to be taking multiple drugs at the same time. Many seniors require the face-to-face attention and recordkeeping provided by pharmacists to ensure that their medications are being properly administered and that there are no adverse reactions among their prescriptions. However, unlike community pharmacies, many mail-order firms do not maintain complete patient medication records, which means that they cannot check for or prevent any potential serious medication problems.

A recent study by the U.S. General Accounting Office [GAO] entitled "Prescription Drugs and the Elderly" noted that health practitioners are in agreement that in order for our Nation's elderly to receive safe and effective care, physicians, pharmacists, and patients should all participate in the drug therapy decisionmaking process through increased communication. However, mail-order prescriptions do not allow this type of face-to-face communication and accurate recordkeeping which is essential to prevent dangerous mistakes with prescription drugs.

Finally, Blue Cross/Blue Shield has stated the proposed elimination of the prescription drug waiver for Federal retirees was a result of "working hard to create a balance between providing an overall comprehensive benefits package for [its FEHBP] members and keeping [its] premiums competitive."

However, this decision seemingly ignores the fact that increasing the medicinal risk to many seniors by removing local druggists could have a drastic effect on the health care costs for everyone. According to the GAO study, nearly one of four ambulatory elderly patients were taking prescription medication in an inappropriate manner which led to unnecessary adverse reactions and higher medical costs amounting to \$20 billion a year. By further increasing the risk of medicinal accident to the elderly, there is no estimate as to the likely increase in medical costs.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, considering the unnecessary risk that would be imposed on many of our Nation's retired Federal employees as a result of a simple cost-cutting measure, it is unwise and inappropriate to place the protection of the neighborhood pharmacist out of the economic range for many of our Nation's retired Federal employees.

A TRIBUTE TO CLEVELAND ROBINSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cleveland Robinson, leader of District 65 of the United Auto Workers Union in New York City who recently passed away. Cleveland Robinson committed his life to economic justice and racial equality. As a union representative, he fought to improve the lives of the mostly black and Hispanic New York City autoworkers whom he represented. Committed to racial justice in the United States and internationally, Mr. Robinson also served as the administrator chairman of the 1963 March on Washington and helped to bring American Labor into the fight against South African apartheid. Mr. Robinson's commitment to justice was deeply held and his contribution to social justice was great.

In memory of Cleveland Robinson and in tribute to the ideals for which he fought, I

would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following excerpts from a statement by Bernice Powell Jackson from the Civil Rights Journal.

No one could attend Cleveland Robinson's funeral, held at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, and not be awed. There was the grandeur of the church, the power of the African drummers leading the procession and there was the procession itself. In it were Jesse Jackson, Andrew Young, Coretta Scott King, David Dinkins and Harry Belafonte. In it were labor leader like Bill Lucy and Owen Bieber and union members whom Cleveland Robinson had spent a life-time representing. In it were church leaders and civic leaders and Robinson family members. In it were the Consul General and Ambassador from Robinson's native Jamaica. It was an awesome moment.

Cleveland Robinson's name is not a household word. Yet, he was a man whose unswerving commitment to the working people of our country led to the improvement of the lives of the 30,000 mostly black and Hispanic workers in small shops and department stores whom he represented. He was a man whose dedication to fighting injustice, especially racial injustice, led him to be a loyal and fearless supporter of the civil rights movements in the United States and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.

It was Cleveland Robinson who served as the administrator chairman of the 1963 March on Washington. In her remarks at his funeral, Mrs. King remembered his long-time support for Dr. King and the civil rights movement, dating back to the 1956 Montgomery bus boycott. Indeed, many in the movement knew that you always could count on Cleveland Robinson for moral and financial support and "troops" when you confronted racism.

It was the same in the anti-apartheid movement, where Cleveland Robinson played a key role in getting labor support of anti-apartheid activities. He helped to organize the 1986 anti-apartheid rally in New York City where nearly a million marched and let our national leaders know they no longer had public support for U.S. backing of a racist regime. For that reason President Nelson Mandela sent a personal message to Robinson's funeral.

Mr. Robinson's contribution to America was powerful, and I would like to take this moment to honor his memory and to mourn our loss.

TRIBUTE TO TOM LAZZARO

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of honoring a colleague of mine who is retiring on December 3, 1995. After giving of himself 30 years of continued and dedicated service to the cognitive and affective growth of thousands of students at Miami-Dade Community College, he now seeks a well-deserved retirement from leading and teaching so many of the college's increasing number of prominent alumni.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

My good friend, Tom Lazzaro, is among a rare breed of hardy but compassionate leaders of young folks who found themselves learning both from his wise counsel and disarming compassion. Beginning his career at the college in 1964, he genuinely epitomized the dual role of teacher and coach, becoming one of our Nation's premiere college tennis coaches. Highly respected among his peers, he served as president of the National Junior College Athletic Men's Tennis Coaches Association from 1974–1994. He was inducted into three different halls of fame: the National Junior College Athletic Association Men's Tennis in 1992, the Dade County Tennis in 1995 and the Florida Community College Activities Association in this same year.

As the Miami-Dade Community College's north campus tennis coach, he led the Falcon netters for 30 seasons, compiling an astounding .619 career winning percentage of 356 wins and 219 losses. During that time, the Falcon tennis team won three consecutive national championships in 1966, 1967 and 1968, finishing as national runners-up three times and winning seven Florida State tennis titles.

Known throughout Florida as a coach extraordinaire and personal confidante of many a student-athlete at the college, Mr. Lazzaro developed 13 junior college all-American tennis players and went out of his way to obtain for 30 athletes scholarships to various 4-year institutions. It is this commitment to the future success of his students that endeared him to the hundreds of young athletes who chose to learn not only the athletic demands to which they were subjected but also prepared them to pursue with excellence the academic requirements toward furthering their education.

During his teaching career at the college, this native of Hialeah instructed north campus students in health education, tennis, and nautical training. Married for 42 years, Tom will now enjoy a much-deserved retirement with his wife Joan, along with his seven children and the other grandchildren that make up the burgeoning Lazzaro clan.

HONORING MS. ETHEL HAWS
GREEN ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Ms. Ethel Haws Green on the occasion of her 100th birthday, Saturday December 2, 1995.

Born Alma Ethel Haws on December 2, 1895, in Del Valle, TX, Ethel began her education in the rural schools of Del Valle. She would later obtain her high school diploma from Los Angeles High School, attend Tillotson College, and earn a certificate in fashion design from Los Angeles Trade Tech School. Following the death of her mother, Ethel withdrew from college to assist her father in raising her eight sisters and brothers. While helping to care for her siblings, she worked as a school teacher in Forney, TX.

Ethel's career took many turns as she helped support her family. After leaving Del Valle she worked in Dallas, TX as a waitress and in Chicago, IL as a housekeeper with the

Southern Pacific Railroad. While working for the railroad Ethel studied cosmetology, earning her license as a cosmetologist and a promotion from housekeeper to beautician. It was here that she would meet her husband, Richard "Pap" Green, who worked as a clerk with the U.S. Postal Service. Ethel and Richard were married in September of 1928 and lived happily together for 55 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Green moved to Los Angeles, CA shortly after they were married. In Los Angeles Ethel began working in a beauty shop. At the shop Ethel met Gladys Owens, with whom she opened her own beauty shop on historic Central Avenue. Several years later, Gladys moved to Chicago and Ethel became the sole proprietor of the establishment. While operating the beauty shop she had the privilege of working with such stars as Lena Horne, Eartha Kitt, and Catherine Dunham. During her career Ethel also worked as a seamstress and a businesswoman. Upon her husband's retirement Ethel spent a decade in the rest home business.

Although Ethel maintained a busy career, she always found time to contribute to her community. Ethel has given direction and made financial contributions to many organizations which provide scholarships to deserving youngsters, such as the Alpha Wives Auxiliary Scholarship Fund, the Cecil Murray Education Center, the Tillotson College Scholarship Fund, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She continues to participate in a number of civic and social organizations, sharing with them her humor, insight, courage, and love of humankind.

Mr. Speaker, Ethel Haws Green is an inspiration to us all. I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing this wonderful and gracious lady on her 100th birthday.

THANK YOU, DON SMRECAK

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, grand events often start from small ones, and keeping them grand requires a special skill. Over the years the Munger Potato Festival has grown from a local event attracting area residents to one which today boasts over 42,000 people who over a 4-day period celebrate the importance of potatoes to the local economy with a carnival, contests, wonderful food, and memories galore. Don Smrecak has served as the chairman of the festival for 10 years, and his tenure will always be fondly remembered.

During his term, the festival grew to its present size. He created a special Kids Day, when children age 5 to 12 are able to participate in games free of charge. Every participant wins a prize for being involved. This follows his work on the parade committee for several years which helped make this parade one of the most attractive of all area events.

Don has been a member of the Munger Volunteer Firemen Corps, the sponsoring organization for the festival, for over 20 years. He continues to serve on various festival committees, as well as serving as the finance chairman of St. Norbert Church in Munger.

Don and his wife Lori have two children, who have been blessed in their family to see

the value of giving to one's community. What better lesson could we ask our young people to learn than the importance of being involved as a volunteer to help make your home town an even better place? The Munger Potato Festival has done this by providing an important source of funding for recreational activities and facilities that are used throughout the year in Munger and Merritt Township.

Mr. Speaker, when a town of 1,700 is visited by 42,000, a major impact is felt. The Munger Potato Festival has been vitally important in helping to provide resources to a wonderful small community, and it is because of dedicated, willing people, like Don Smrecak. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in thanking Don for his years of service to his community.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, November 29, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WHY I OPPOSED THE GINGRICH BUDGET PLAN

Earlier this month, the House considered two different budget reconciliation plans that would balance the federal budget in seven years. The first plan, proposed by Speaker Gingrich, was approved by the House and Senate, but vetoed by President Clinton. I opposed this version. The second plan, drafted by a group of conservative Democrats known as the "Coalition", was defeated by the House. I supported this version.

Congress is taking serious steps to address the budget deficit. I support a balanced budget and a line-item veto and have voted for a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. I will continue to urge the President and my colleagues in Congress to reach a bipartisan agreement to balance the budget in seven years.

The Gingrich plan.—This budget plan includes the following major provisions:

HEALTH CARE CUTS

The plan would cut back an estimated \$270 billion from projected spending in the Medicare program. It would increase Part B premiums paid by beneficiaries; cut back payments to hospitals and doctors; and give beneficiaries a wider choice of health insurance options. The plan also would cut back an estimated \$170 billion from the federal share of Medicaid by converting it into a capped block grant to the states, limited the amount of federal funds a state could receive.

TAX BREAKS

The Gingrich budget would provide \$245 billion in tax cuts, including: a \$500-per-child tax credit for families with incomes up to \$110,000; an expanded Individual Retirement Account (IRA); and a reduction in taxes on capital gains income. It also would scale back the Earned Income Tax Credit, which benefits the working poor, by \$32 billion.

OTHER CUTS

The plan would reduce spending on welfare by \$82 billion by converting the current program into several block grants to the states. It would cut back spending on farm programs by \$13.8 billion by reducing export supports and replacing current programs for

major commodities with declining annual cash payments which are not tied to crop prices. It would also increase borrowing costs for college students, and reduce spending on veterans' programs by \$6.7 billion.

THE COALITION BUDGET

The conservative "Coalition" budget I voted for asks every American to do their fair share with more evenly distributed spending cuts. This plan would reduce spending by more than \$850 billion over seven years. It reforms welfare, preserves Medicare and Medicaid for the future, cuts corporate subsidies, and makes farm programs more market-oriented. It also includes a line-item veto and tough enforcement measures.

The Coalition budget is a promising middle ground between the White House and the Speaker's budgets. It eliminates the federal budget deficit in seven years, as the Republicans want, uses realistic cost estimates, ensures that work pays more than welfare, and reduces the burden of the debt, while requiring less drastic cuts in social programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, because it is without tax breaks. Furthermore, the Coalition budget reduces the deficit right away, while the Gingrich budget adds to the deficit (and the debt) in 1996 and 1997 because the tax breaks are front-loaded.

My position.—I opposed the Republican budget plan for four reasons.

First, the job of balancing the budget is made much more difficult by huge tax breaks. We cannot justify large tax cuts until the budget is balanced—especially when the tax breaks start early and most of the spending cuts are delayed. If and when a surplus does occur, then Congress should pass the tax cuts. It does not make sense to borrow more money to give ourselves a tax cut. My preference would be for a more balanced tax package. A good portion of the Gingrich tax breaks would favor wealthier Americans.

Second, my spending priorities are different. Half of the total savings come from health care and assistance to the poor and elderly. We should not ask the poor to bear more than their share of the burden. The cuts in Medicare and Medicaid are too steep. My preference is for fair, across-the-board cuts in most programs; deep cuts in "corporate welfare;" and more modest increases in defense spending. We should also preserve funding for long-term investments in education, research and infrastructure. These are necessary to continue economic growth, increase revenues, and reduce the deficit.

Third, the plan delays most of the tough spending cuts until 2001. Until then, we will have deficits in excess of \$100 billion per year. My preference is to reduce spending gradually each year, rather than postponing action.

Fourth, the process for consideration of the bill was flawed. The bill is too large (it runs over two thousand pages) and covers too many important issues. Speaker Gingrich only allowed two hours of debate on the measure, without an opportunity for amendment. This process places too much power in the Speaker's hands and subverts the legislative process.

Conclusion.—I am encouraged by the recent agreement between the President and congressional leaders which establishes a basic framework for negotiations on the budget. The President agreed to support a seven year balanced budget plan and to use Congressional Budget Office assumptions to get there, provided the budget plan is balanced, fair and does not devastate key federal programs, particularly Medicare, Medicaid and education.

The budget clash taking place in Washington today is not just a squabble among poli-

ticians who have forgotten their manners. The policy debate reflects a nation at a crossroads and turns on fundamental questions about the size and role of the federal government and whether there should be any safety net for the poor and the elderly.

At the end of the year, if the Republicans refuse to moderate their more extreme demands and if the President's vetoes are sustained, then we will simply have to take the debate to the voters next fall. In the interim, we should not allow the country to be hurt by government shutdowns and high wire management of the national debt.

RETIREMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL COMMISSIONER MAURY HANNIGAN

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today together with my California colleagues NANCY PELOSI, CARLOS MOORHEAD, PETE STARK, FRANK RIGGS, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, LYNN WOOLSEY, HENRY WAXMAN, ZOE LOFGREN, WALLY HERGER, ROBERT MATSUI, ANDREA SEASTRAND, HOWARD BERMAN, GEORGE RADONOVICH, ROBERT DORNAN, JANE HARMAN, KEN CALVERT, STEPHEN HORN, ELTON GALLEGLY, JULIAN DIXON, RICHARD POMBO, MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ, CALVIN DOOLEY, HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON, TOM LANTOS, and BOB FILNER to honor a man who has dedicated over 30 years of his life in service to the people of California. This month, Maurice J. (Maury) Hannigan will retire as the commissioner of the California Highway Patrol, a post which he has held meritoriously since 1989.

Commissioner Hannigan was appointed to the California Highway patrol November 30, 1964. He rose swiftly through the ranks of the department serving for 5 years as deputy commissioner before being appointed commissioner. Commissioner Hannigan's tenure has been one of accomplishment, courage, and conviction.

In a demanding job, Commissioner Hannigan has never settled for simply doing the minimum. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Golden Gate University, he continued to seek out further professional development and training becoming a graduate of the University of California Davis Executive Program, the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Executive Institute. His dedication also extends to the many law enforcement and traffic safety committees on which he serves.

It is indeed an exemplary attitude which has made Commissioner Hannigan determined to make California a safer place to live. In recognition of this determination, Commissioner Hannigan has been the 1994 recipient of the National Safety Council Distinguished Service to Safety Award and the recipient of the J. Stannard Baker Award-Special Recognition/Lifetime Service to Public Safety bestowed by Northwestern University.

We are all sorry to see Commissioner Hannigan leave the California Highway Patrol and in particular the post he has so singularly held for the last 6 years. It is without doubt that his contributions to our California community are far from over. It is with sincere thanks

and best wishes for the future that we honor his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO OKALOOSA COUNTY UNDERSHERIFF JERRY ALFORD

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Okaloosa County and the State of Florida will be losing a much beloved and highly respected law enforcement officer on December 31, 1995, when Okaloosa County Undersheriff Jerry Alford retires after four decades of service as a law enforcement officer and public servant. It is a great honor to recognize this dedicated police officer for his service in the field of criminal justice.

At a time when our Nation appears to lack confidence in our Government, and the men and women who fight to enforce the law of the land, it is fitting that today we honor a law enforcement professional who always went the extra mile to protect our citizens while striving to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Undersheriff Alford has known, better than most, that while trying to protect our quality of life, we must respect the God given rights of freedom.

His overall attitude of public service has been a model in the lives of hundreds of law enforcement officers that he has trained, supervised, and encouraged. His legacy will remind new officers that when at all possible, police officers should go above and beyond the call of duty to assist the citizens with any problem when it's legal, moral, and ethical to do so.

During the past 40 years, Mr. Alford has proven himself a real patriot in the truest sense of the word. In many occasions, he placed his life and limb in jeopardy, in defense of lives and property of others. A man who has always had a vested interest in his country and community, Mr. Alford has served as a U.S. Marine, a Walton County deputy sheriff, a special agent with the State of Florida Beverage Department, and undersheriff with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

As Mr. Alford departs his active role in the law enforcement community, he can take pride in knowing that he influenced so many people in a positive way. Mr. Alford will always be remembered not only as a committed crime fighter, but a man of principle with a sincere desire to serve his community, State, and Nation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 440, NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM DESIGNATION ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 18, 1995

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report to accompany S. 440, the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995. Certain provisions in this report are of particular importance to my constituents and to all of the citizens of

the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Existing regulations implementing the Clean Air Act would force Pennsylvania to accept a centralized, test-only auto emissions inspection and maintenance program in order to be deemed in compliance with that act. The test-only program would require citizens to bounce back and forth between test centers and auto repair garages and would leave auto technicians guessing about whether their work was successful in addressing their customer's problems. The citizens of Pennsylvania voiced their extreme dissatisfaction with such a program when it was proposed by our previous Governor, and the State legislature repealed the statute which provided for that program.

Provisions in this conference report eliminate the arbitrary automatic 50 percent penalty in emissions reductions credit that the regulations would impose on States that preferred a decentralized approach. While I was not a Member of Congress when the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments were enacted, I do not believe that Congress intended to require the one-size-fits all program that these regulations force on the States. The elimination of this penalty would restore to the States the flexibility that Congress intended that they have in creating programs that will make the most sense in their States. Additionally, under the provisions, States like Pennsylvania whose legislature has not yet passed enabling legislation will have 120 days to do so, as well as, to propose accompanying regulations. The Congress is aware of the burden imposed upon Pennsylvania by this timetable since it coincides with the time in which the Pennsylvania legislature must also develop a budget that must be enacted by June 30. The parties to the agreement are aware of Pennsylvania's concerns with the small window and intend to work with them. We also hope that EPA will be flexible in working with Pennsylvania as it develops its plan.

Pennsylvania's current Governor, Tom Ridge, has proposed a decentralized test-and-repair program that he believes can meet the goals of the Clean Air Act without visiting undue hardship and inconvenience on the motorists and auto repair businesses of Pennsylvania. The inspection and maintenance provisions in this conference report would allow Pennsylvania to complete the design and implementation of a program on this decentralized basis and would allow that program to be judged on its actual performance over an 18-month period, rather than by an arbitrary rule.

I believe that reducing ozone pollution and improving the quality of the air that we breathe is of great importance to my constituents and to the rest of the citizens of Pennsylvania. I also believe that the States know what will best work to achieve the goal and should have the latitude to design programs that make sense for their citizens. I believe that these provisions give that needed latitude to Pennsylvania and to other States that are currently wrestling with this problem, and I urge the adoption of the conference report.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS FAR FROM BROKEN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article by Mr. Gus Tyler celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Social Security trust fund and decrying the false prediction that Social Security is on the verge of bankruptcy, Mr. Tyler makes clear that the Social Security trust fund is not running out of money, as many of my colleagues have argued.

The trust fund is strong and will remain strong as long as the American economy is strong. What threatens the trust fund is what threatens the economy: unemployment and a stagnant economy. We need to strengthen the economy not to dismantle Social Security. Moreover, the Social Security system strengthens the American economy by generating buying power and increasing savings. I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this statement by Gus Tyler which clearly outlines why we don't need to dismantle Social Security.

TRUST FUND DOESN'T NEED TO BE "FIXED"

(By Gus Tyler)

The Social Security Trust Fund, which celebrates its 60th birthday this month, will go bust sometime between the year 2020 and 2030. That forecast has been heard so often and from so many authentic voices that the statement is now taken to be a fact. Which it is not.

To head off the imagined disaster, the following remedies are presented: a) raise the payroll tax that funds the system; b) reduce the benefits to retirees; c) do not adjust the benefits to meet the cost of living; d) tax benefits to help balance the budget.

If these cures are applied, they will kill the patient who is not sick.

The Social Security Trust Fund will not run out of funds by 2020 or 2030 unless the United States runs into what amounts to a depression that will continue for a protracted period. And the remedies currently proposed will hasten the coming of precisely such a depression that will not only destroy the Social Security program, but will destroy the country.

Here is the truth about Social Security as set forth simply by an extremely authoritative governmental body known as the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

The facts that follow are drawn from the 1995 report of this official body to the appropriate persons and agencies in accordance with Section 201(c)(2) of the Social Security Act as amended.

The Report (page 181) submits three scenarios on the future of the Social Security system. One scenario assumes virtually no growth in the economy in the first 75 years of the next century. Another scenario assumes slow growth; a third scenario assumes something between no movement and a slow crawl.

The first scenario—the worst possible case—assumes that the country is in the economic doldrums for about 70 years. By 1996 (next year), the economy will be effectively stagnant, with a growth rate of minus 0.7 percent. That means recession bordering on depression.

The same scenario projects little hope for the future. Growth will be near zilch. And, as

a consequence, the Social Security Trust Fund will be facing early bankruptcy. In fact, says the footnote on page 181, "estimates for later years (after 2030) are not shown because the Funds are estimated to become exhausted in 2030."

But—and this is a big "but"—this is only one of three scenarios submitted by the Board of Trustees.

A second scenario assumes an annual growth rate of between 2 and 3 percent a year. That is a very slow growth rate when compared with growth in the years from 1960 to 1964 (4.4 percent) or with growth in the years 1970 to 1974 (3.1 percent) or with 1984 (6.2 percent). A growth rate in the next century—from the year 2000 to 2070—of a mere 2 to 2.5 percent is sluggish.

Yet, according to the report of the trustees, if such a growth rate, albeit slow, continues, by the year 2070, the Social Security Trust Fund will have an income of \$22.74 trillion dollars and will have accumulated assets of \$98.7 trillion. Yes, "trillion," not billion!

The \$98 trillion (roughly \$100 trillion) is not as outlandishly huge as it seems. The report for this scenario assumes an annual 3 percent rate of inflation. Over 75 years (from 1995 to 2070), a dollar will lose much of its value, ending up worth about 10 cents in 1995 currency.

Allowing for that factor, the \$98 trillion dollar reserve projected for 2070 would only be worth one-tenth that sum—about \$10 trillion—in 1995 dollars.

Ten trillion dollars in 1995 currency is, however, no mean sum to have as a reserve in the Social Security Trust Fund. It is twenty times as large as the present reserve of about half a trillion. It is twice as large as the total federal debt this year. It will, as noted above, be replenished in 2070 by an additional \$22 trillion and by annual contributions in that dimension in the years to follow.

One of the problems that some insiders were posing a few years ago when this scenario began to unfold was—what to do with all that money? One of the possible answers would be to allocate some of the money in the Old Age and Survivors Fund to the Medicare Fund.

The sums that are projected by this scenario are not the outer limits of what can be realized. The assumption of the "optimistic" forecast is that the economy will grow, between now and 2070, at an average rate of about 2.5 percent a year. That is no great shakes. Between 1960 and 1994, it grew at 2.8 percent. And it could have grown faster if the Federal Reserve Board had not been repeatedly checking growth by raising interest rates and limiting the money supply.

Should the economy grow at 3 and 4 percent a year, added trillions would pour into the Social Security and Medicare funds, as well as into the U.S. Treasury.

But, would not such growth beyond, let's say, 3 percent, be inflationary? The report of the Fund trustees says, "No." In 1984, the economy grew at the swift speed of 6.2 percent, but the inflation rate (consumer price index) was only 3.5 percent. Again, in 1994, the economy grew at a lively 4 percent, but the inflation rate was only 2.5 percent.

Perversely, in some of the years of slowest growth, prices rose wildly. In 1990, the economy grew by a feeble 1.2 percent, but prices rose by 5.2 percent. And in 1980, the economy actually shrunk by 0.5 percent, but prices skyrocketed by 13.4 percent.

The reasons for this seemingly contrary behavior are several and make a fitting subject for another article. But the fact remains that rapid growth does not mean inflation and that low or negative growth does not mean lower prices. (All these data are drawn from the above mentioned report, page 56).

In sum, the future of Social Security (and Medicare) is not glum if the economy continues to grow at a reasonable rate. The way to go, then, is to take steps to expand the economy.

But the remedies proposed to "fix" the Social Security system that is not broken will break both the security system and the economy. Let us, briefly, consider each of these proposals.

1. Raise the payroll tax. Such a tax would reduce the "disposable income" of employees. They and their families will have less with which to buy. In our "market economy," any such shrinkage of the "market" has to shrink the economy—less buying, less production, fewer jobs. Right now, retailers and manufacturers are stuck with a pile up of 14 months of consecutive inventory accumulations they cannot sell. To cut buying power of employees would mean more unsold wares.

2. Reduce the benefits. That would have the same effect as raising the tax on employees. Reduced benefits mean reduced buying power. And reduced buying power means reduced production, etc. ad nauseam.

3. Do not increase the benefits to keep up with the rise in the cost of living. This, too, would be a subtle, but effective way to do what 1) and 2) above do more directly. If prices rise and the ability to buy does not rise simultaneously, people buy less. By now, we all know the rest.

4. Tax the Social Security benefits of the "affluent." Such a tax is, in effect, a reduction in benefits. Uncle Sam gives with one hand—the security check—and takes with the other hand, the tax. That would work just like the other bad medicines.

In addition, who are the "affluent"? Are we talking about a retiree with an income of \$25,000 or a retiree with an income of \$250,000? To tax the latter would probably not seriously change his or her spending habits; to tax the former will.

What is not generally appreciated about the Social Security system is that it is one of the greatest and most reliable sources of nourishment for the entire American economy. In 1995, some 43 million people will have received about \$340 billion with which to buy things and purchase services. Let's assume that in a mean moment of madness, all those payments were discontinued. How long would the American economy be able to sustain itself?

The Social Security system, however, does more than provide the fuel for consumption, it also provides capital for production. Every year, for many years, the security fund has generated multi-billion dollar surpluses. At the end of this year, it will have a reserve of more than half a trillion.

Where does that money go? It goes, just about all of it, to purchase government securities. That frees up other capital for investment in the private sector of the economy.

In this way, the Social Security system strengthens America in two ways: a) it generates buying power; b) it generates savings.

And, if we, as a nation, pursue policies to expand, rather than stunt, growth, the entire economy and U.S. Treasury, whose income is drawn from that economy, will be in better shape and our senior citizens need not worry about either their or their children's future.

TRIBUTE TO REV. KWASI
ANTHONY THORNELL

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday November 29, 1995

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to thank the Reverend Kwasi An-

thony Thornell for his wonderful ministry to the citizens of the Washington, DC metropolitan area. On January 1, 1996, the Reverend Thornell will begin another chapter in his ministry as the new Rector of St. Philips Episcopal Church in Columbus, OH. As he prepares to begin a new ministry, I am pleased to have this opportunity to provide this retrospective of his many years of faithful and steadfast ministry in our Nation's Capital.

Father Kwasi—as he is affectionately known by the many whose lives he has touched—has indeed inspired many through his ministry. For over a decade, he has served the National Capital Area faithfully, spreading his message and affection to the young and the old, as well as to the healthy and the infirm. Although he is moving on to continue his ministry in another location, his contributions to the Washington metropolitan community warrant special praise.

Born in Tuskegee, AL, the Reverend Thornell was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John T. Walker in 1973. He is a candidate for the degree of doctor of ministry at Wesley Seminary and holds a master of divinity degree from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. He received his undergraduate degree from Alma College in Alma, MI. He is the father of three children.

For over two decades Father Kwasi has been bringing spiritual awareness and hope to communities in Detroit, MI; St. Louis, MO; and our Nation's Capital. In particular, he has been deeply involved in efforts to eradicate violence among our youth. As a matter of course, Father Thornell has an abiding commitment to eradicating the obstacles that perpetuate poverty, illiteracy, and violence. Indeed, in the Washington community, he successfully led and improved the cathedral's tutorial program, and established a similar program at Calvary Episcopal Church. His efforts to stamp out youth violence are well known throughout the Washington metropolitan community, where he currently serves as a project coordinator for the Violence Prevention Initiative for the Foundation for the National Capitol Region.

As the assistant rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, Father Kwasi was very active with youth organizations and worked to extend the church's outreach to the surrounding urban community.

Prior to joining Calvary, the Reverend Thornell spent nearly a decade at the Washington National Cathedral. As canon missionary, he was responsible for pastoral and liturgical duties, and represented the cathedral in areas of urban social justice and outreach ministries. In this regard, Father Thornell was especially effective in bringing a heightened awareness to the problems of youth violence in the community. He participated in numerous forums and outreach efforts established to eliminate the conditions that lead our youth away from the church and into the arms of violence.

While at the cathedral, he also served as interim precentor, responsible for planning and directing religious services, creating liturgies, writing prayers and preparing the Rota. During his tenure, Father Thornell was also actively involved in the church's mission to highlight the evils of apartheid in South Africa. He traveled to that country as a participant in church-sponsored delegations.

Father Kwasi's early years in the ministry were spent as minister and founder of the Al-

xander Crummell Center for Worship and Learning in Detroit, MI. In St. Louis, he served as the vicar of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and as the deputy for urban mission for the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri.

Throughout his distinguished and devoted ministry, Father Kwasi has tirelessly worked to improve the socioeconomic condition for the disenfranchised and poor members of the community. He has been a savior for those children seeking a brighter tomorrow, and provided comfort and advice to persons suffering pain, despair, and/or other forms of adversity.

He has used his ministry and the pulpit to deliver powerful, inspiring and relevant sermons, translating God's message into community action. He has done more than just preach the Gospel. He has walked the Gospel, endeavoring to make life just a little better for the children and the downtrodden in our community. He has worked with patients afflicted with HIV-Aids, and those persons suffering from the disease of alcoholism. He is an HIV-Aids education trainer, as well as a trained counselor in alcohol abuse. His has been a ministry filled with hopefulness and a belief that humankind can have a brighter tomorrow if we care for one another.

A man of seemingly boundless energy, The Reverend Thornell has also devoted his time to serve on numerous boards, including RAP, Incorporated; the Church Association for Community Services; Episcopal Caring Response to Aids, Childrens' Defense Fund, and the National African American Clergy HIV/AIDS Task Force.

In addition to serving as president of the District of Columbia Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians [UBE], Father Kwasi also is a member of the NAACP, the urban League, the Council of Greater Washington, and the Episcopal Urban Caucus.

Last year, Father Thornell realized a lifelong dream when he starred as a cast member of the production of Fraternity at Washington's historic and renowned Lincoln Theater.

Mr. Speaker, as the Reverend Kwasi Anthony Thornell prepares to carry his profound, wonderful, and inspirational ministry to St. Philips and the greater Columbus community, I am pleased to have this opportunity to salute the many outstanding contributions he has made to the citizens of the Washington metropolitan area. I ask that my colleagues join me in saying thank you and in extending our heartfelt best wishes for continued success as he prepares to begin a new, exciting, and challenging chapter in his selfless ministry as an exceptional servant of our Lord.

ERV WITUCKI: SPUD
EXTRAORDINARE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of our communities have special matters that define their heritage and economic well-being. And many of these communities have developed such a heritage through the efforts of devoted individuals. Munger, MI, is known for its annual Potato Festival that has been held each year since 1954. One man who deserves unqualified recognition for his efforts over the

years is Erv Witucki, who has been a member of the sponsoring organization, the Munger Volunteer Firemen Corps, for the entire 41 years.

Not only has Erv been a member of the sponsoring organization since the festival's inception, he has also served as the festival's chairman for 20 years, from 1960 to 1981, and its co-chairman or honorary chairman for the remaining 21 years. He nurtured the festival's growth from a small, two day local event, to one which attracted over 30,000 people each year as a major regional 4 day event.

I can personally remember going to this event as a small child, and thinking how grand it was. As I grew, so did this festival, so that the image I had of this wonderful event as a child only grew with me. This is because of the hard work of Erv Witucki during those formative years. The impact this festival has had on other young people has been phenomenal because it isn't just for a 4-day celebration of the importance of the production of a key commodity, potatoes, to this town, but an opportunity to raise funds that have an impact on youth throughout the year. Recreation projects such as softball programs, tennis courts, playground equipment and picnic areas, a pavilion and volleyball courts, and an annual Halloween party for children are all the direct result of this festival.

Erv has given to his community. He and his wife Marie have been blessed with 4 children and now 11 grandchildren. He has served as Merritt Township treasurer for 28 years, and has been extremely active with St. Norbert Church in Munger.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Munger are very grateful to Erv Witucki and the others who have volunteered their time and effort to make their community a better place. I urge you and all of our colleagues in joining me in offering thanks to Erv Witucki.

THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington report for Wednesday, November 22, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE BUDGET BATTLE

As the federal government shut down on November 14, many Hoosiers found themselves angry about the dispute that precipitated the shutdown, unsure about how long it would last, and concerned about how it might affect them.

The shutdown occurred because Congress has not completed action on all of the measures to provide funding for the government during the current fiscal year, which began on October 1. A short-term funding measure, called a continuing resolution (CR), was passed in September and gave Congress until November 14 to enact spending bills. But by that date only three of the thirteen appropriations bills had been signed into law.

Congress and the President have not been able to agree to extend the CR. The congressional leadership attached a number of provisions to the second continuing resolution, including an increase in Medicare premiums. President Clinton objected to these provisions, and vetoed the measure. With my sup-

port, Congress then passed a continuing resolution that would keep the government open until December 5 and called for balancing the budget in seven years. However, President Clinton also vetoed this measure.

On November 14, some 800,000 of the federal government's two million civilian employees were furloughed. Many federal government offices were closed, including national parks and museums. New applications for federal benefits, such as Social Security, could not be processed, though payment of Social Security and Medicare benefits continued. The Agriculture and Energy Departments remained open because their funding and been approved. In addition, employees vital to the safety and health of the public, such as air traffic controllers and guards in federal prisons, were kept on duty, as were those on active duty in the military.

A short-term shutdown of the federal government produces plenty of frustration, inconvenience and confusion, but probably little enduring harm. Congress has typically ensured that federal workers receive pay for the time they spend on furlough. However, a longer shutdown could create major problems for many people. Companies with federal contracts, individuals receiving veterans' benefits, and federal employees could see their payments delayed.

In addition, shutting down the government is expensive. Pay for furloughed federal employees is estimated to cost about \$150 million per day. The shutdown process itself—preparing plans, notifying employees, securing property and so forth—also carries a price.

But perhaps the greatest cost of the shutdown is that it simply reinforces the cynicism and bitterness so many Americans feel about the federal government, particularly elected officials. They see the shutdown as the result of the partisan bickering and political posturing, and they place blame on leaders of both parties for gridlock.

Complicating the situation further is disagreement on raising the federal debt limit. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin has taken a number of steps to ensure that the federal government remains below the debt limit, since at that point the government could no longer borrow money to meet its obligations. A default by the federal government could have serious, long-term implications for the American economy, though no one really knows how the markets would react. The big unknown is that much of the debt is held in places abroad where the understanding of American politics is meager. In any event, my view is that we should do everything we can to avoid default. There is no good reason to push the nation to the edge of financial catastrophe.

I agree with those who find the current standoff unnecessary and counterproductive. Both sides are engaging in political theater at the expense of substance. Congress has had several months to complete work on the appropriations bills. Voters expect us to work together to get the government's business done, and we should do so.

The current standoff is essentially not about short-term funding, but about competing views on how to balance the budget. The congressional leadership is trying to use the spending and debt limit legislation, where they have a lot of leverage, to force the President to sign the reconciliation bill—the bigger fight where they have little leverage. This is the most difficult struggle over budget priorities I have seen since I have been in Congress. It is a high-stakes dispute over what the role and the priorities of the federal government should be over the next several years.

The short-term solution to the shutdown of the government may appear manageable, but

it is extremely difficult to see the solution to the long-term division between the President and the congressional leadership. The real fight comes when Congress passes the reconciliation bill and the President vetoes it. What is at stake there is the future of Medicare, Medicaid, the welfare system, rules governing the environment, and federal efforts in education, employment training and technology.

We must take several steps to get beyond the current impasse. I believe that sensible compromises are within reach. First, in my view, Congress should enact a "clean" continuing resolution and debt limit increase, without extraneous policy provisions. Second, we ought to continue negotiations in an effort to enact the rest of the appropriations bills for the current fiscal year. Third, we must to the extent possible seek agreement on policy issues contained in the reconciliation bill.

I suspect in the end we will not be able to resolve all of these major policy differences in 1995. The way out will be to keep the government operating largely under present policies on these unresolved matters and then have a public debate on the budget between now and the 1996 elections. Both sides would then have an opportunity to clarify exactly what they are for. I think this approach would make the voters much more comfortable.

The question with respect to the shutdown is: do we want a battle or a bill? I believe that Hoosiers want the government to get the people's business done. They are tired of this game of political chicken and are not going to view either party in this debate favorably. Both the President and Congress must seek reasonable solutions, not political points.

DEPENDENTS WITH DISABILITIES FEDERAL LIFE INSURANCE PROTECTION ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Dependents With Disabilities Federal Life Insurance Protection Act of 1995. The bill would permit a Federal retiree over the age of 65 to continue additional optional life insurance coverage when the beneficiary is a person with a disability. In this case, the disability would have to be one which could be expected to last permanently and would prevent an individual from fully providing for himself/herself. The retiree would also be responsible for the total premium, limiting the cost to the Government.

Currently, Federal workers can continue the additional optional life insurance coverage, irrespective of age. However, when these individuals reach age 65 and are retired, the insurance is reduced and then subsequently stopped. There have been cases in which Federal workers have continued working beyond the normal retirement age in an effort to continue this coverage for their dependents with severe disabilities.

Without a provision for a dependent with a disability, upon the retiree's death, the dependent would become a public responsibility, with potential budgetary implications at the national, State, and local levels. This provision would be consistent with the thrust of the 1990 Americans With Disabilities Act [ADA]. The act

encourages persons with disabilities to live in a setting of maximum independence—financially and socially—rather than being relegated to functioning in institutional settings subsidized with public funds.

This bill will help many persons with disabilities continue to have a quality life and will give peace of mind to thousands of Federal retirees, who have dependents with disabilities.

The following are key components of the bill:

The bill amends title 5 to provide that the reduction in additional optional life insurance for Federal retirees shall not apply if the beneficiary is permanently disabled;

The retiree must have designated the person with the disability as the beneficiary prior to retirement;

The payment received can only be used for the care and support of the beneficiary;

The disability of the beneficiary must be one that is expected to last permanently and that would prevent an individual from fully providing for himself/herself;

The retiree is responsible for the full premium;

A payment to the beneficiary will be reduced by the amount of any premiums not paid due to current law;

The Office of Personnel Management will have 1 year from the date of enactment to issue regulations; and

An individual who retired 50 months prior to the enactment of the law can have the additional optional life insurance reinstated at the full percentage.

A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW J.
HAYES

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to pay tribute to a gentleman who provided great service to his family, his community, and his country. I was greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Matthew J. Hayes, a constituent of my congressional district and someone for whom I had a great deal of admiration.

Matt Hayes began his public-service career with the Delaware County government in 1977 when he became director of budget management. His outstanding abilities were recognized 2 years later when he was appointed executive director of Delaware County, a post he held for 13 years. I worked closely with Matt in my capacity as chairman of the Delaware County Council. No public servant brought more vigor to a position than Matt, nor did anyone more capacity protect the interests of taxpayers.

In 1992, Matt became chief executive officer of the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority. Again, he approached his position with commitment and determination. His knowledge and negotiating skills helped save the county millions of dollars.

Matt was a certified public accountant and a graduate of Villanova University, where he

also served as an adjunct professor of accounting for 8 years. Before joining county government, he had 20 years experience in the private sector in accounting and management, including international financing with a major accounting firm.

Matt was also dedicated to serving his community. He served as treasurer of the Haverford Township Republican Party and was a member of the Haverford Township Parks and Recreation Board. He also served on the finance committee of St. Denis Roman Catholic Church, his home parish in Havertown. He was a board member of the Ardmore Manor Civic Association and a member of the Merwood Civic Association. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

Matt was devoted to his family. He cared deeply about his wife, Marie Purcell Hayes; his children, Matthew, Marie, James, William, and Joseph; and his three grandchildren. I offer my condolences to each to them. Matt will be greatly missed by all of us.

HONG REFUGEES OF THAILAND

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit for the record a letter I have sent to Secretary of State Christopher on behalf of the Hmong refugees in Thailand. Incidents of human rights abuses, forced repatriation, and retaliation upon their return to Laos continue to be reported. The Hmong community in Rhode Island remains very concerned about this situation, and I believe it is time we work to resolve it. I will be certain to submit for the record any response I receive from the State Department on this urgent matter:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 28, 1995.
Secretary WARREN CHRISTOPHER,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I write to express my concern about the status of Hmong combat veterans and refugees in Thailand.

You may recall that I wrote last year regarding the plight of the Hmong refugees. At that time, I was assured that additional resources had been committed to UNHCR to provide assistance to and monitor the safety of Hmong refugees, and that the State Department was working with the Thai government to resolve the question of repatriation to non-communist third countries. Thus, I have supported efforts to maintain a fair and responsible U.S. refugee policy that would prevent further persecution of Hmong refugees.

However, I am distressed that this situation has not yet been resolved. The Hmong people were our loyal allies and have been a great asset to our nation. Yet, thousands of Hmong remain in Thailand in refugee camps and continue to be persecuted because of their relationship with the U.S. While I recognize the difficulties in administering a refugee program, cases of forced repatriation, disappearances, and human rights abuses continue to be reported.

I would sincerely appreciate an update on the current status of the Hmong refugees.

Specifically, I would like to know: what progress has been made to resettle the remaining Hmong combat veterans and refugees in safe, third countries; what efforts are being made to assist and monitor the safety and welfare of those refugees who have been voluntarily repatriated; have all means of forced repatriation ceased; are there currently immigration slots available for these refugees to come to the United States; is the Thai government cooperating with these efforts; and if not, what action will the State Department take to help the remaining Hmong refugees and ensure that they are not forcibly repatriated?

This issue is of great importance to the Hmong community in Rhode Island. Thank you in advance for your attention to this urgent issue, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

JACK REED,
Member of Congress.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
k you in advance for your attention to this urgent issue, and I

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to commend the South Side's Milwaukee Christian Center Neighborhood Improvement Project [NIP] on its 20th anniversary.

The South Side's NIP was founded in 1975 as a collaboration of South Side agencies seeking to provide summer jobs for youth under a community development block grant. The organization was formed to harness the considerable energy of area youth in an endeavor that would teach them valuable skills and contribute to the surrounding community.

In 1994, the South Side NIP employed 44 young adults in housing rehabilitation projects. Participants remove unsightly graffiti, paint, provide carpentry services, and roof homes for low-income homeowners. South Side neighborhoods receive a facelift, while youth gain a work ethic and marketable skills.

Sixty-seven homes benefited from no-cost renovations last year. Meanwhile, the 38 young offenders served their community service sentences as graffiti removal team members, cleaning up at over 2,300 dwellings throughout the year.

Young people learn about the real work world through the NIP. They work on a time-clock and are responsible for their tools. Some programs operate based on piecework, which rewards higher productivity with higher pay. Many summer program participants have moved up through the program to become team supervisors. Mentors are drawn from local community centers to provide technical expertise and role models for the youth.

Over the past two decades, the South Side NIP has provided invaluable services to local residents. It truly represents an exemplary investment of CDBG funds. The program benefits not only participants, but also homeowners and neighborhoods. I am pleased to congratulate the Milwaukee Christian Center Neighborhood Improvement Project on its 20th anniversary and wish it continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, due to a family medical emergency, I was not present for rollcall vote Nos. 822 and 823. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 2525 and "yes" on Senate Concurrent Resolution 33. I request unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD immediately following these rollcall votes.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM KUNSTLER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to attorney William Kunstler who recently passed away. In memory of William Kunstler and in tribute to the ideals for which he fought, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this statement.

Mr. Kunstler was profoundly committed to the fundamentally American ideal of justice for all. As an attorney he fought against racism and for the legal rights of everyone from important political figures to marginal outsiders. His notable achievements included his work with Dr. Martin Luther King and his representation of Adam Clayton Powell and Stokely Carmichael.

To make the ideal of a just America a reality, Mr. Kunstler brought his considerable talents to defend unpopular and sometimes virtually unwinnable cases as a matter of principle. He took on the cases of many of the prisoners charged following the Attica Prison uprising. He took on the case of Wayne Williams, who was convicted of killing young boys in Atlanta, and Colin Ferguson, who was convicted of killing several people on the Long Island railroad. It is these cases that test our commitment to a fair and equitable justice system, and it is with these unpopular cases that William Kunstler proved the depth of his commitment to a fair justice system.

In her tribute to William Kunstler, Bernice Powell Jackson from the Civil Rights Journal noted that William Kunstler was a man who challenged our legal system to be the best and the fairest it could be. In this time of increasing attacks on the rights of the accused, we need to be inspired by Mr. Kunstler's commitment to a fair and equitable justice system. I would like to take this moment to honor his memory.

WORLD FOOD SUPPLIES

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, November 15, 1995 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FUTURE WORLD FOOD SUPPLIES

The tightening of world food supplies in recent years has led many people to wonder about the long-term food outlook. Will we be facing an era of major shortages driven by world population growth that will mean sharp price increases for some and food scarcity and famine for others? Or will research advances and improved farm productivity be enough to meet the growing world needs? The long-term predictions have important implications for U.S. food and agricultural policy and for Hoosier farmers.

CURRENT SUPPLIES

In recent years, world grain supplies have tightened considerably. The world's grain harvest has not increased in any of the last five years, and since 1992 world grain consumption has exceeded production. Grain stocks carried over from one year to the next are at record lows. In the U.S., lower production, strong export demand, and reforms making farm programs more market oriented have meant that this year—for the first time since World War II—there are basically no surplus stocks in government-owned reserves. The tight supplies have led to steep price increases for wheat, rice, and corn.

LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS

Some people look at the current tight supplies and see things only getting worse. They believe that world population growth, increasingly scarce water and land resources, and the demand for better diets in developing countries will mean an era of major food scarcity. Others are optimistic. They point to advancing farm technology, unused cropland, and potential to modernize farm production in developing countries. On this view, feeding billions more around the world could easily be done.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently released a major study on the outlook for world food supplies that comes down in between these two views. Looking at the next 10 years, the report sees no looming crisis in food supplies. The report expects production to grow at basically the same rate as population, so grain use per person will remain relatively unchanged. World prices for wheat and rice are expected to lag only slightly behind inflation.

Explaining the increased demand, USDA emphasized the importance of world population growth—from 5.5 billion to 6.6 billion over the next decade—as well as efforts by countries like China to improve their diets. Yet world food production is expected to keep pace, more through higher yields than expanded cropland. Crop yields, however, are expected to grow more slowly than in the past because high-yielding rice and wheat varieties have been widely adopted and no similar research advances are anticipated soon.

FOOD SHORTAGES

While the USDA report projected adequate global food supplies, it also concluded that there will be major food shortages in some parts of the world. And on that score USDA was not optimistic. Currently some 800 million people—15% of the world's population—have inadequate diets, with many of them suffering from severe malnutrition. The study projected that food aid needs will double over the next decade, even under relatively optimistic assumptions of increased food production in the developing countries. The problem of food shortages is largely financial—the inability of poorer countries to buy adequate food.

The world food situation is like a basket half empty and half full. More people are adequately fed than ever before and much more food is available than in past decades. At the same time, there are still more hun-

gry people in the world than ever before, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of total world population.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

One clear message from the long-term food supply projections is that we need to continue to support agricultural research. The U.S. agricultural research system has been a major reason for the productivity of our farmers, and continued research will be crucial in the years ahead to helping them meet the ever-growing markets for food.

Yet agricultural research faces federal budget cuts. Funding in 1996 will be below this year's level, and Congress will consider various reforms in the months ahead. We need to balance the budget, but deep cuts in agricultural research would be short-sighted.

FARM PROGRAMS

The increasing world food needs also mean that we should reform current federal farm programs to open up more farmland to production. Currently some 15 percent of U.S. cropland is being idled through federal commodity programs designed to help stabilize supplies and through Conservation Reserve programs designed to protect fragile cropland.

Reforms are currently being considered in Congress to reduce government land set-asides, allow farmers to withdraw less-sensitive land from the Conservation Reserve, and allow farmers more planting flexibility to react to world market needs. I support such efforts.

FOOD AID

We also need to improve U.S. food aid programs, since the end of World War II, the U.S. has been the world's bulwark against famine. This year we will provide \$1.3 billion in food aid—about 1/10 of 1 percent of the total federal budget. Food aid benefits not just needy people overseas but also U.S. farmers, by providing a market for their current production and by laying the groundwork for future export sales. Of the 50 largest buyers of American farm goods, 43 are countries that formerly received U.S. food aid. Former food aid recipients purchase more than \$35 billion in U.S. agricultural products each year. By helping feed the needy we also create major new markets for our exports.

But food aid programs also face budget cuts, and it is clear that we will have to do more with less. That's why recent Clinton Administration efforts to overhaul and "reinvent" food aid programs—better coordinating assistance and focusing much more on measuring and managing for results—are a step in the right direction.

CONCLUSION

Long-term projections about global food supplies and needs are very tentative, and are highly sensitive to even the smallest changes in assumptions. The latest projections are generally reassuring for those of us in the U.S., but they also indicate the need for a long-term view in our food and agricultural policies. We must continue to invest in the ability of U.S. farmers to meet the needs of global markets.

IN SUPPORT OF STRONG LOBBYING LEGISLATION

HON. MICHAEL PATRICK FLANAGAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, today is a historic day. Finally, after almost a half century, the House passed and sent to the President a strong lobbying disclosure bill that will

serve to close the various loopholes in current lobbying law and make the rules mean what they are supposed to mean.

Because it was necessary to send to the President a clean bill—any amendment adopted to H.R. 2564 would have ultimately served to kill lobbying reform in Congress for yet another year—Members of Congress were forced to withdraw and vote down a number of well-intended and worthy amendments.

Sadly, one of those withdrawn amendments was offered by the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL]. Mr. DINGELL's amendment would have made a step in the right direction in stifling the atrocious lobbying procedure associated with so-called astroturf lobbying in which lobbying firms falsely use a person's name in a telegram or letter in an effort to influence a Member of Congress on pending legislation.

In August, during consideration of H.R. 1555, the Communications Act of 1995, my office received thousands of these computer-generated form telegrams. They were supposedly from my constituents outraged over the telecommunications deregulation and reform legislation. But after my staff and I contacted over 200 of those whose names and addresses that appeared on the telegrams, our results revealed that only a tiny fraction of "senders"—I am talking about only a handful—even knew their names has been used in this way, and one gentleman had long been deceased.

Mr. DINGELL's amendment to establish a penalty of a fine or up to 1 year imprisonment for lobbying firms who falsely uses a person's name in a computerized telegram or postcard is a necessary step in ending these despicable lobbying techniques. I urge all my colleagues to support it when introduced as free-standing legislation.

While I strongly support Mr. DINGELL's language, I also believe it is important for Congress to enact legislation that would require full disclosure of expenditures on this so-called astroturf lobbying. Neither H.R. 2564 nor the Dingell amendment requires disclosure of expenditures on astroturf lobbying. I believe this important information should be included in the registration and reports filed by lobbyists or organizations that lobby. This could be accomplished through separate legislation which I hope will be introduced this year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. DINGELL for offering his amendment today and for withdrawing it. I hope we can get together and put our minds to work and introduce a strong lobbying reform bill this year. Mr. CANADY, chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution of the full Committee of the Judiciary and lead sponsor of H.R. 2564, is also committed to working on another lobbying bill. With a year left in the 104th Congress, I believe this will be achieved.

ROMANIAN NATIONAL DAY—
DECEMBER 1

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Romania's National Day on December 1, I would like to take a few moments to recognize

the strides it has made since overthrowing communism just a mere 5 years ago.

Romania, like many of its neighbors, rejoiced when it was finally able to break free of communism and join the West. Having lived through some very rough years of a Stalinist inspired dictatorship, the Romanian people and their government are firmly dedicated to establishing a modern democracy.

Once obtaining its new-found freedoms, Mr. Speaker, Romania went on to achieve a number of firsts. For example, in 1989, Romania became the first country in central Europe to adopt a new Constitution, approved by a new, freely elected Parliament and by national referendum. Romania was also the first country in the region to have three rounds of free elections in 6 years, including parliamentary, presidential, and local. Finally, Romania achieved the distinction of being the first central European nation to join the Partnership for Peace [PPF] on January 26, 1994.

I am pleased to note, Mr. Speaker, that the Romania Government regards its bilateral relationship with the United States to be very special, and is intent on developing an intense cooperation in all fields with the United States—political, military, economic, and cultural. For example, at my invitation on behalf of the Congressional Research Service Task Force on International Parliamentary Programs. Mr. Adrian Nastase, President of the Romanian Parliament—equivalent to our Speaker of the House—is currently leading a delegation to Washington to institute modernization techniques for running the Romanian Parliament.

The Romanian Parliament is currently busy debating a law on political parties, and several other bills—on competition, on real estate promotion, on a forest code, on labor protection—demonstrating that democracy is hard at work in Romania. Ironically enough, when recently asked which issue is currently the most important one before the Romanian Parliament President Nastase answered that the budget has taken precedence before all other political issues. I guess some things do not change from Parliament to Parliament, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Central and Eastern Europe experienced tremendous hope with the fall of the Iron Curtain. The people of these countries and their governments are now facing the sobering challenges to build anew a free and modern state. On the occasion of Romania's National Day, I congratulate Romania for its accomplishments to date and join with my colleagues to wishing Romania well in its future.

HONORING KENNETH R. KORNHAUSER, FRED MILSTEIN, AND LEONARD COOPER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the members of the Suffolk Association for Jewish Educational Services [SAJES] and my constituents in the fifth congressional district as they gather to honor Kenneth R. Kornhauser, Fred Milstein, and Leonard Cooper for distinguished service in advancing the cause of Jewish education in Suffolk County, NY.

Through innovative and creative leadership, Kenneth R. Kornhauser has provided a solid basis of support to the advancement of quality Jewish education. A member of Temple Beth Torah, Kenneth is an involved board member of an array of Jewish organizations that include the Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center, the Gurwin Jewish Geriatric Center, the United Jewish Community Center of Long Island, and SAJES.

Honoree Fred Milstein also is being recognized for his endless dedication to the Suffolk Jewish Community. He has exemplified himself and enhanced the community through his active and effective participation as a member of the Suffolk Jewish Center, and as a board member of SAJES, the Solomon Schechter Day School of Suffolk County, B'nai B'rith, the World Jewish Congress, and the Suffolk Jewish Communal Planning Council.

Extraordinary is a word that befits SAJES' third honoree, Leonard Cooper. Because of his extraordinary talents for enhancing the Suffolk Jewish Community, SAJES confers upon him an award of special recognition. Leonard has served with great distinction and effectiveness as the first president of the Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center, and he is also a board member of the Gurwin Jewish Geriatric Center. In addition, he has served as campaign chairman for the United Jewish Appeal on eastern Long Island.

Without compensation or demand for recognition, these men have given of their great skills and talents to the uplifting and betterment of our community. It is with great pride that I call upon all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Kenneth R. Kornhauser, Fred Milstein, and Leonard Cooper. May their good works and selfless deeds serve as an example for all Americans to follow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I was unavoidably detained and unable to return to the Capitol in time to record a "yes" vote in favor of H.R. 2564, legislation to tighten disclosure rules for lobbyists.

The passage of H.R. 2564—on the heels of last week's landmark vote to completely ban all gifts from lobbyists—adds to this new Congress' already impressive list of achievements in changing the way Washington does business.

On the first day of this Congress, the new Republican majority in the House of Representatives delivered on its promise to drastically cut congressional staff. We have continued to deliver on this pledge, cutting spending in the legislative branch, reducing committee staff by one-third, and completely eliminating three full committees and redistributing their duties.

We have also instituted internal term limits on the Speaker and committee chairmen, and ended the practice of ghost voting in committee, requiring instead that Members themselves be present to vote. And, the crown jewel of our internal reforms thus far—the first Republican bill signed into law by Bill Clinton—was legislation requiring that the laws of the land apply to Congress as well.

While there is still more to be accomplished on our congressional reform agenda, these significant reforms—including H.R. 2564—will do much to end business as usual in Washington, and to restore honesty and integrity to Congress.

CELEBRATING ROMANIA'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, in a couple of days, on December 1, Romania will celebrate its national day of independence. This 1995 celebration will mark the 77th time the people of that nation have commemorated the founding of their country. Unlike many of the past national days, however, Romania's celebration

this year is one that is full of hope for the future.

As many of my colleagues know, earlier this fall, Romania's President, Ion Iliescu, came to Washington to meet with President Clinton. He also met with a number of our colleagues here in the House. The message he carried was simple. Romania is irrevocably marching down the path toward a democratic political system and a free-market economy.

This march has not been an easy one—reversing 40 years of communist rule is difficult. Romanians have borne real economic hardship since the 1989 revolution that overthrew the dictator Ceausescu. Nevertheless, major economic indicators for a healthy Romanian economy appear auspicious. Inflation is expected to be only 29 percent this year, less than half the 1994 rate. There has been more foreign investment, including U.S. investment, during the first 6 months of 1995 than there was in all of the previous 4 years. The agricultural sector, the first sector to benefit from pri-

vatization, has produced an almost record crop of wheat, allowing Romania to be a net grain exporter for the first time in years. A new stock exchange has opened, drawing capital to Romania, and the government has initiated a comprehensive privatization scheme empowering individual Romanians to become owners of the country's manufacturing sector.

Taken together, these successes bode well for Romania's economic future—a future we are encouraging through our granting of most-favored-nation status to Romania and by extending to it the benefits of the Generalized System of Preferences Program.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in extending our best wishes to the people of Romania on the occasion of their 77th—annual—day of independence. I also hope my colleagues join with me in acknowledging the progress Romania has made in meeting the twin goals of economic reform and political democratization.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 1995, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 1

- 10:00 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the peace process in the former Yugoslavia. SD-419
- Special on Special Committee
To Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters
To continue hearings to examine certain issues relative to the Whitewater Development Corporation. SH-216
- 2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine certain funding requirements involving United States interests in Bosnia. SD-192

DECEMBER 5

- 10:00 a.m.
Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 984, to protect the fundamental right of a parent to direct the upbringing of a child. SD-226

DECEMBER 6

- 9:30 a.m.
Labor and Human Resources
To hold joint hearings with the Committee on Small Business on certain issues

relating to modifications to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. SD-106

Small Business

To hold joint hearings with the Committee on Labor and Human Resources on certain issues relating to modifications to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. SD-106

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101- 601). SR-485

DECEMBER 14

- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings on S. 1271, to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. SD-366

CANCELLATIONS

NOVEMBER 30

- 2:00 p.m.
Judiciary
Immigration Subcommittee
Business meeting, to continue to mark up S. 1394, to reform the legal immigration of immigrants and nonimmigrants to the United States. SR-385