EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRANSFORMATION: HELPING THE NEEDY BECOME NON-POOR

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mr. GINGRICH. On this floor, I've often discussed the book ''The Tragedy of American Compassion,'' where author Marvin Olasky examined over 300 years of what has worked in American social policy. His main point: You do not want to maintain the poor, you want to transform them. The goal of helping is to get them to be non-poor. You help an addict by getting them to give up their addiction. You help an alcoholic by getting them to be a recovering alcoholic. You work to transform people, because if you only maintain them, you will ruin their lives.

One of our colleagues, the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. MFUME, knows more than a little bit about this kind of transformation. His life is a testimony to it. He recently announced his decision to leave this body to assume the Executive Directorship of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. His very personal journey is detailed poignantly in Courtland Milloy's excellent column from the Sunday, December 17 Washington Post. As the gentleman embarks on a very different mission of transformation, we wish him well. I submit the Post column into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Certain lessons should transcend either party or ideological lines:

[From the Washington Post, December 17, 1995.]

TRANSFORMED, MFUME LEADS BY EXAMPLE

(By Courtland Milloy)

In explaining his transformation from street dude to political leader, Kweisi Mfume talks of having had a ''spiritual experience.'' This is not to be mistaken for a religious occasion, such as going to church. It's more akin to a spiritual emergency, or crisis, in which Mfume tried for years to change his ways but found willpower alone to be insufficient.

Mfume recalls the days when his name was Frizzell Gray, and how he and his buddies used to stand outside a liquor store in Baltimore, drinking alcohol and telling lies. On one particular night while in his early twenties, he was overpowered by a feeling of ruination, of being a man on a road to nowhere. It was in that moment of truth, he says, that he received the courage and strength, some would say grace, to start a new life.

Now that Mfume has been selected to serve as president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People much is being made of the man he became after that night on the street corner. He went on to become a radio disc jockey, a Baltimore city councilman and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

But Mfume's true value has little to do with his job descriptions. It is the process of his personal change that holds the key to the transformation of the NAACP; it is the spiritual emergency of Frizzell Gray that points the way to real advancement for African Americans.

''People thought I was crazy,'' Mfume told Peter J. Boyer of the New Yorker magazine last year. ''But that night I left that corner and prayed and asked for God's forgiveness and asked my mother to please forgive me this one time for letting her down. I had let her down—that was not the way I was raised.

''I said that if I had just one more chance, I would never, every again go back to that, and I would try to find a way to atone for it. And I cried on the floor that night on my knees. I made a very real promise to myself, to my mother and to God that night—that if I could just get to that point and get one more chance I would do everything I could do to make a difference.''

Mfume had to fight to get off that corner. His former drinking buddies would not let him just walk away. He says they regularly beat him up until they decided that he was a ''lost cause'' and finally left him alone.

Mfume learned a most important lesson from those struggles: Sometimes you may have to take a fall to take a stand.

Among the most difficult tasks facing Mfume now is redefining the struggle for civil rights; no one seems to know for sure where to go from here. But Mfume has a pretty good idea. His story suggests that we don't have to go anywhere, that we need only stand where we are and begin to treat those around us with courtesy, kindness, justice and love.

''You are not a man because you killed somebody Mfume said last year during a Father's Day service at St. Edwards Catholic Church in West Baltimore. ''You're a man when you know how to heal somebody.'' As Boyer described the scene, ''it was no greeting card homage to dear Dad, but, rather, call to arms in a war for cultural survival.''

Some would say that Mfume won that war when he went back to school and earned a high school equivalency degree in 1968. But it was when he began taking responsibility for the children he had fathered out of wedlock that he became a real winner.

Some would say that he won when, as a disc jockey, he stopped playing jock rap music in favor of political dialogue and jazz. But more important was Mfume's newfound attitude of gratitude that had allowed him to work at the radio station as a low-paid gofer until he had learned some skills.

Mfume, now 47, has been elected to Congress five times since 1986. He has served on the powerful House Banking Committee and, in 1992, became chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

But he sacrificed a secure job to help resurrect the NAACP, an organization that, for all intents and purposes, is dead. It died the day black Americans forgot where we came from and began to act as if the modicum of success that some of us enjoy had somehow been won through personal charm and good looks instead of the struggles and sacrifice of others.

This misguided sense of self-reliance, brought on in part by a profound ignorance of history, is probably the single most important reason black America has been brought to its knees.

To make his change, Mfume had to admit that he was spiritually bankrupt and that he needed help from a power greater than himself. That honesty paid off with a new consciousness, and his willingness to be of service to his fellow man has resulted in a new energy, insight and intuition worthy of his new name, which means ''conquering son of kings.''

The NAACP, like much of black America, is in the same boat that Frizzell Gray had been in. But with Mfume at the helm, there is hope that what happened to him can happen to others as well.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. MAJ. JAMES JUSTIN HEINZLER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize Cmd. Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) James Justin Heinzler for serving over 42 years in the Missouri Army National Guard. He served from April 22, 1952, to September 11, 1994.

Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Heinzler's most recent service with the Missouri Army National Guard was with the 1st Battalion, 128th Field Artillery. He served in this position for his last 16 years of service. Throughout his career, he has strongly committed himself to all that is required. He has gone beyond to provide guidance and support for his fellow officers.

He has received numerous military awards throughout his career. The awards are the Army Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with three 10 year devices, and the Army Commemoration Medal. He is submitted for the Meritorious Service Medal.

Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Heinzler has not only provided faithful and dedicated service to the Missouri National Guard, but to his country as well. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his service.

THE CLINTON DEFENSE POSTURE WILL RATTLE OUR MILITARY FOR YEARS TO COME

HON. RANDY ''DUKE'' CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, newspapers being delivered across the country are hitting the doorsteps of military families hard enough to rattle their households. The papers, radio, and the television are carrying President Clinton's message that it is no longer worth the trouble to serve your country in the armed services.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has made the difficult choices that will take this Government to a balanced budget by 2002, while at the same time re-establishing the security of our

Nation. Just this week, we sent the President H.R. 1530, a Defense Authorization bill that restores a reasonable quality of life for our military, sustains basic military readiness, reinvigorates the Pentagon's efforts to modernize weapons, and makes a downpayment on our effort to make the Pentagon run more like a business.

The bill gets the Pentagon back into the business of defending our country, without a skyrocketing Defense budget.

Despite the fact that this bill includes a long overdue 2.4-percent pay raise, a 5.2-percent increase in housing allowance for our troops and their families, and $35 million to educate children of military personnel, the newspapers now tell us that President Clinton will veto that bill.

Any sergeant, colonel, admiral, or general will tell you that their most important asset is a well-trained and dedicated man or woman. Unfortunately, because of a declining quality of military life and number of broken Government promises, the rank and file soldier and sailor is becoming an increasingly rare asset.

We have American soldiers and sailors trying to feed their families with food stamps. Some of the kids that the President is sending into harm's way in Bosnia are leaving their families behind in housing that is substandard. Clinton's historic 1993 tax hike not only forced more taxes on hard-working middle-income American families—despite a promise to actually cut taxes—it also delayed COLA's for military retirees by three-quarters of a year—breaking a promise that was made to many of those men and women while they served this country overseas and at war. The Defense Authorization bill fixes the Clinton COLA grab.

The veterans, retirees, and active military families that I talk to every day tell me that they don't trust the government anymore. Fully half of this country's new military enlistees come from military families, and those families are beginning to tell their kids that it just isn't worth it. As a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, I dedicated my life and service to this country in exchange for a few promises of pay and benefits. If the Government, led by President Clinton, continues to break those promises and deny a reasonable quality of life, our military families will find it even more difficult to dedicate themselves to military service.

Mr. Speaker, what the President is doing is wrong. I challenge him to change his ways and demonstrate a commitment to our men and women in uniform. At a time when he plans to send over 32,000 troops into war-torn Bosnia, enactment of the Defense Authorization bill is a good place to start.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on December 13, 1995, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 851, the adoption of House Resolution 297, a rule to permit the House to adopt, by a simple majority, rules for certain legislation on the same day that they are reported by the Rules Committee. Had I been present for vote No. 851, I would have voted ''aye.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM A. COBURN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, due to weather delays in my return from Oklahoma, I was unable to cast my vote on House Joint Resolution 132, the resolution supporting a balanced budget in 7 years. I have made clear since January that balancing the budget is our highest priority if we are to secure a bright future for our children and grandchildren. Therefore, had I been here, I would have voted ''aye'' on House Joint Resolution 132.

HONORING THE LUDLOW BOY'S SOCCER TEAM'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Coach Tony Goncalves and his Ludlow High School Lions boy's soccer team for their outstanding 4 to 1 victory over Somerville High School to win the Massachusetts Boys Division I State Soccer Championship. The impressive performance by the Lions in the championship capped off a tremendous 17–2–3 campaign for Coach Goncalves and his team and earned them a spot in the top 25 of the Umbro Boys High School Soccer Poll. Over the years Ludlow High School has enjoyed a rich tradition of soccer excellence and this team will certainly be remembered as one of the best in Ludlow High School history.

I would also like to recognize Coach Goncalves' assistants Jack Vilaca, Greg Kolodziey, and Jon Cavallo for their outstanding efforts throughout this championship season. It is the unsung efforts of people like these that often make championships possible, and Ludlow was quite fortunate to be assisted by such able individuals.

Finally, I would like to recognize the players who delivered this spectacular victory: Seniors, Bob Nascimento, Eddie Pires, Rich Huff, John Summerlin, Aaron Majka, Carlos Gomes, Adriano Dos Santos, Wesley Manuel, Chris Goncalves, Mark Eusebio, Jeff Leandro, Juniors, Robe Gomes, Matthew Goncalves, Adriano Genovevo, Danny Elias, Jason Alves, Ryan Lemek, Sophomores, Alex Carvalho, Dave Garcia, Jon Haluch, and Justin Larame.

The achievements of these young men are a tremendous source of pride for not only the town of Ludlow but for the entire Second Congressional District. I am honored to represent such outstanding individuals and I join with the citizens of the Second Congressional District in offering a most heartfelt congratulations. I would also like to wish the returning players the best of luck as they embark on their title defense next season.

HONORING A MCCREARY COUNTY LEADER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my good friend Napoleon ''Nip'' Perkins who recently passed away just shy of his 90th birthday. My family and thousands of others throughout McCreary County and southern Kentucky are deeply saddened by this tragic loss.

Our area has lost a topnotch businessman, an inspiring civic and community volunteer, a political leader, and a good friend. He helped everyone he could and always was willing to sacrifice his time for others.

Nip Perkins was a retired land agent and an engineer for Stearns Coal and Lumber Co., where his high energy, friendly style is what always stood out most.

Politics was where Nip was most influential. Serving as a field representative for my two predecessors in Congress, Congressmen Eugene Siler and Tim Lee Carter, he has been a recognized leader for more than seven decades.

Nip was also a great confidant for me, always keeping his ear close to the ground and my best interests at heart. He was wise, informed, and always positive.

Nip served six terms as the McCreary County Republican chairman and was the first inductee of the Fifth Congressional District Lincoln Club Hall of Fame for his honorable and dedicated service.

I could not think of a better person to be our first Hall of Fame inductee.

In addition to his political service, Nip was a former McCreary County master commissioner and served on the County Selective Service Board. He was a 65-year member of the Orie S. Ware Lodge in Stearns and the 32d degree Mason in the Valley of Covington.

My heart goes out to Nip's wife of 62 years, Evelyn Anderson Perkins, and his wonderful family. He was a great friend and a good man, and he will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN DINGELL ON HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to a man who has provided 40 years of dedicated service to the people of Michigan's 16th Congressional District and the United States of America, my good friend and dean of this esteemed body, JOHN D. DINGELL. The fact that Mr. DINGELL is still recognized by many of his colleagues from both sides of the aisle as ''Mr. Chairman'' is one example of the high level of respect and appreciation we have for his service.

Like his father before him, JOHN DINGELL has worked diligently to serve his constituents in the State of Michigan. His tireless efforts to