

ARTHUR SHERWOOD FLEMMING—  
ONE OF OUR CENTURY'S GREAT-  
EST PUBLIC SERVANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized during the morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, last week one of America's great citizens passed away at the age of 91, Arthur S. Flemming. He grew up in upstate New York where his father was a lawyer, an active Republican, and an active Methodist. But instead of pursuing the family tradition in the law after he graduated from Ohio Wesleyan, Arthur came to Washington during the Coolidge administration. He joined David Lawrence on what later became the weekly U.S. News and World Report. His assignment was to cover the Supreme Court of the United States.

During the 1930's he became more and more interested in the evolution of public administration as an academic discipline. He became the founding dean of the School of Public Affairs at the American University in Washington. President Franklin D. Roosevelt tapped him to fill the Republican slot on the U.S. Civil Service Commission. For almost a decade his Democratic colleagues yielded to him to run the Commission. So he was in charge of the policies to build a larger civilian work force as the Second World War came and went.

Following the war, President Truman utilized Flemming's skills as assistant director of defense mobilization. After President Eisenhower was elected in 1952, Flemming was made director. He sat with Eisenhower in the White House as the President listened to the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Chief of Naval Operations, and others all try to urge him to go to the aid of the French troops who were surrounded at Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam. The President listened very carefully and after several hours of discussion said, we will not go to the aid of the French; and the President was right, America should not have been involved in the conflict in Vietnam and except for a few hundred advisers who could not be in the battles, our Nation never was during the Eisenhower administration.

In 1958, the President made Arthur Flemming the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. During the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, Flemming served on the National Advisory Commission of the Peace Corps. Being a dedicated teacher, educator at heart, Flemming spent most of the 1960's as president of the University of Oregon and, later, Macalester College in St. Paul. In the late 1940's, he had been a university president during the Truman administration. He was mostly in Washington as assistant director of the Office of Defense Mobilization. But on weekends, he would take the train to his alma mater, Ohio Wesleyan, and provide leadership by holding faculty

meetings on Saturdays. Arthur was probably the only college president in America who could get away with that.

His energy and determination were endless. His oratory could move an audience to action.

□ 1315

Whether he was the chairman of the National Council of Churches or heading Senator Jacob K. Javits' Task Force on Health Care, which worked on bills that were the precursor of Medicare in the middle sixties, Flemming always had the public interest at heart.

With the coming of the Nixon administration, in 1969, he became the head of the White House Conference on Aging and the Administrator of the Aging Program, in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare where a decade before he had served as Secretary. Flemming was one of only two Cabinet officers who went back to the Department in which they had served as a Cabinet member. Public service was his calling. Flemming's commitment to public administration was all encompassing. He was one of the founding and most esteemed members of the National Academy of Public Administration. In the late 1940's and early 1950's, he had served on the two Hoover commissions on organization of the executive branch of the Government. President Truman had brought former President Hoover out of retirement.

In the mid-1970's, President Nixon asked Arthur Flemming to serve as Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Mr. Speaker, served as vice chairman with him for most of his tenure there. Arthur always saw the positive side and the good in people. He was constantly in motion. Whatever "hat" he was wearing at the time meant flying to make a speech to help bring people together. He would have written the speech himself and composed it on his faithful typewriter. His skills as a journalist never left him.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Arthur S. Flemming was one of the great public servants of this century. He cared. He was dedicated. He was the epitome of distinguished public service and proof that one citizen who cares can, indeed, make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I enclose the Flemming obituary which appeared in The Washington Post on September 9, 1996.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 9, 1996]

ARTHUR FLEMMING DIES; KEY ADVISER TO  
PRESIDENTS FROM FDR TO REAGAN

(By Martin Weil)

Arthur S. Flemming, 91, a former Health, Education and Welfare secretary who championed the aged and ill during a decades-long and much-admired public service career under presidents from Roosevelt to Reagan, died Sept. 7, in Alexandria.

Described as a role model to generations of government officials and social activists, Mr. Flemming also was known for his commitment to education and to civil rights. He was president of three colleges and was chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission from 1972 to 1981.

In government, he was a chairman of the old Civil Service Commission and one of the major figures in the mobilization of the government civilian work force during World War II. A man to whom religion was important, he was an active Methodist layman and had headed the National Council of Churches of Christ in America.

As depicted by those who knew and worked with him both in public life and in his many private roles, Mr. Flemming possessed a rare and perhaps unequaled combination of bureaucratic competence, compassion for the needy and ability to inspire that endured from the New Deal into the '90s.

He "was one of the great intellects of social policy, combining extraordinary knowledge with a rare gift for policy-making," said Donna E. Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services, a successor department of HEW. "He never stopped fighting for the elderly and the poor."

Mr. Flemming's tenure as HEW secretary ran from 1958 to 1961. He served under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a Republican, and was himself a Republican. But Mr. Flemming "transcended party, generation and race in search of consensus on some of the great issues of our day," President Clinton said in a statement.

Mr. Flemming had lived for the last four years at Washington House, a retirement home in Alexandria, but his son Thomas said he traveled each day to work in the District, where he was active in such groups as Save Our Security, a Social Security advocacy group.

According to John Rother, legislative director of the American Association of Retired Persons, the speech Mr. Flemming gave just last year to the White House Conference on Aging was considered the "highlight of the conference."

Thomas Flemming said his father's health had deteriorated since a fall in his downtown office building about a month ago. Mr. Flemming's death in the clinic of Washington House was attributed to acute renal failure, his son said.

Mr. Flemming was born June 12, 1905, in Kingston, N.Y., the son of Harry Hardwicke Flemming, a lawyer who was an active Methodist layman. Mr. Flemming worked for a year after high school graduation as a newspaper reporter and then entered Ohio Wesleyan University, where he was a member of the Republican Club.

After graduation, he came to Washington. He received a master's degree in political science from American University, where he also taught government and served as debate coach. In the early 1930s, Mr. Flemming, known for his ability to juggle a vast array of activities, received a law degree from George Washington University; covered the Supreme Court as a reporter for the old United States Daily, which later became U.S. News & World Report; and directed American University's School of Public Affairs. He also edited a current affairs newspaper for high school students.

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt tapped him for what became a nine-year stint as a member of the Civil Service Commission. He held key government personnel posts during World War II and was a member of the Hoover commissions, which studied the organization of the federal executive branch, from 1947 to 1949 and again from 1953 to 1955.

From 1948 to 1953 and 1957 to 1958, he served as president of Ohio Wesleyan. For part of his tenure, he worked in Washington at federal posts during the week, returning to Ohio and his collegiate duties on weekends.

Throughout the Eisenhower administration, he was a member of the President's Advisory Committee on Government Organization, serving as its chairman from 1958 to

1961. During the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, he was a member of the Peace Corps National Advisory Commission.

He also was president of the University of Oregon from 1961 to 1968 and president of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., from 1968 to 1971. He was chairman of the White House Conference on Aging in 1971 and was appointed U.S. commissioner on aging during the Nixon administration.

In trying to characterize his career, Mr. Flemming, according to his son, often adopted words first used by Roosevelt. Mr. Flemming would frequently say that he was trying "to help people deal with the hazards and vicissitudes of life."

One of the ways in which he tried to do that, according to Robert J. Myers, former chief actuary of the Social Security system, was in trying to preserve and strengthen Social Security.

"He was always very much interested in doing this and doing it soundly," Myers said.

Mr. Flemming received the Presidential Medal of Freedom two years ago from President Clinton.

In addition to his son Thomas, of Alexandria, survivors include his wife, Bernice, of Washington; two other sons, Arthur H., of South Pasadena, Calif., and Harry, of Alexandria; a daughter, Elizabeth Speer of Delaware, Ohio; a sister, Elizabeth Sherbondy of Pittsburgh; 12 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. A daughter, Susan Parker died in 1993.

#### WHY WE HAVE COCAINE IN SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANCOCK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WATERS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I come today to try and create a real discussion about drugs. In this election year, we have begun to hear a discussion, a discussion of blame. Obviously President Dole has decided he is going to make drugs an issue, and we kind of hear them talking about who funded what and who did not fund what.

While this discussion is going on, there is a startling revelation about something that took place in America that will outrage the average citizen. The San Jose Mercury News published a series of articles starting August 18, 19, and 20. These articles were done by an award-winning journalist named Gary Webb. After over a year of investigation, what did he find out? I think it is all reported, maybe in the first paragraph of the article that you see displayed here.

It says,

For the better part of a decade a Bay Area drug ring sold tons of cocaine to the Cripps and Blood street gangs of Los Angeles and funneled millions of drug profits to a Latin American guerrilla army run by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, a Mercury News investigation has found.

Now Gary Webb is indeed an award-winning journalist who developed these articles, and they are extraordinary because it describes starting back as far as 1979 how CIA operatives came into south central Los Angeles, part of the district that I represent, connected

with a young man named Ricky "Free-way" Ross. One of the operatives was Mr. Danilo Blandon, the other was a Mr. Meneses. They connected with this man in south central Los Angeles, supplied him with tons of cocaine which was cooked into rock cocaine, spread out among street gangs and others who began to sell this drug at a very cheap price.

Before they came into south central Los Angeles, cocaine was not known there. Cocaine was the drug of kind of the elite, the rich, and the famous. It could not be afforded in poor neighborhoods. But when they learned to cook it up and put it into rock cocaine, they could sell it for very small amounts of money.

But not only did they bring the drugs in, they brought the guns along with them.

I went a week ago to the San Diego Federal Detention Center, the metropolitan center in San Diego, and met with Mr. Ricky Ross to find out whether or not he could confirm what is displayed in the series of articles. Not only did he take me back to 1979, when he was 19 years old and started selling these drugs, he said:

"Ms. WATERS, they brought the guns in. I didn't know what an uzi was. They brought us so many weapons, we had a huge arsenal," and he went on to verify that they even brought in a grenade launcher.

But of course they were putting drugs out on the street on consignment, which simply means you can pass them around, people do not have to have money to become drug dealers, you pass them around, but they better bring the profits back, and the guns were there to ensure.

Back in the 1980's we saw this terrific activity. Something was happening in south central Los Angeles. We began to see the drug addiction, the crime, the gang warfares, the violence. None of us in our wildest imagination would have thought that our own Government may have been involved. To have this revealed to us helps us to understand the devastation, not only in Los Angeles, but all across America as the gangs spread out, as the drug dealers spread out to sell crack cocaine.

As a result of this we have crack addicted babies, we have women walking the streets of America cracked out, we have homelessness. Much of the homelessness, whether it is in New York, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, are crack addicts. The cost of health care in our emergency rooms has gone up.

Mr. Speaker, this is just a beginning. I am going to talk about it every day. We are going to get to the bottom of it. We are calling for investigations. We are going to find out who is behind all of this. We are going to do something about it.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule 1, the House stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker (Mr. MILLER of Florida) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Reverend Robert McConnell, Presbytery of Lake Michigan, Brighton, MI, offered the following prayer:

In this Nation of gifted and talented people, we are particularly thankful for the men and women who honor this House with the courage of their convictions, the spirit of their debate, the toughness of their minds, and the will to succeed in the name of their country.

As pressures mount in the next few weeks, we ask Thee, O Lord, to pay special attention to these our public servants. Give them that serenity of mind and spirit that seldom knows defeat. Inspire them to travel the high road of hope so that, by their example, we can sense, too, the higher calling of service to others. And grant them wisdom that will reflect on the greatness of our country—this land of unlimited horizons for all.

Now hear the calls, Lord, for an even better America, an America that knows no limits to the values of opportunity, justice, and liberty. Let our leadership help fashion us into an even stronger union of spirit and mind with respect for one another's differences. And may bridges be built to heal divisions among us as we do our best to follow the prophet's words " \* \* \* to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with Thee."

And so, great God, continue to give the Members of this House the grace to stand up for what is noble and just and the hope to see fresh, new visions for this land of freedom.

This is our hope. This is our prayer. We ask this in Thy name. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOOLITTLE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and jus-