

our children who are also in poverty. Let us make Mother's Day a day when we commit to the cause of all women, infants and children.

IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING FOR CRIME PREVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today this body was presented with legislation that was called the Juvenile Crime Act of 1997, long on language but short on a balanced approach to this problem.

I recognize that violent crime must be met with punitive actions. But non-violent crime must give juvenile delinquents an opportunity to change. That is why I tried to influence and offer this amendment that I had today calling on more funding for preventive measures, but I was unable to submit it. So I objected to H.R. 3, because no juvenile crime bill will be worth the paper it is written on without full and adequate resources for juvenile crime prevention. There is no way we can lock up or imprison a generation of troubled young people. We must provide meaningful alternatives to deter our young people from a life of crime.

In California, the total juvenile arrests in 1994 were 257,389 young folks. Of those arrested, only 22,053 or 8 percent were violent offenders. That leaves 235,336 nonviolent juvenile arrests. Those are the young people we can save and that we must reach out and work with.

Mr. Speaker, we must be tough with violent criminals, even young violent criminals. But in California only 8 percent of all juvenile offenders are violent, and we must deal with them appropriately. They must be locked up. But the 235,336 whom we can save, we must provide the programs for those in a way that we can turn their lives around.

That is why my amendment would increase funding for crime prevention programs by \$2.3 billion. We have got to reach at-risk juveniles before they begin committing violent offenses. Our communities must reach out to them through education and crime deterrent programs when they cry out for attention through infractions of the law.

My amendment would also make sure that funds would be there for crime prevention. It places our Federal priorities first on crime prevention, not building more prisons. We have more prisons in California than any other State, but our crime rates are not the lowest. Prisons alone will not solve the problem. Crime prevention is what we need.

Mr. Speaker, we must provide more resources for drug prevention, for non-violent crime; we must have more education initiatives. We must increase the penalty for the transfer of a hand-

gun to a juvenile or for a juvenile who possesses a handgun. This is why I introduced my bill, the Firearm Child Safety Lock Act of 1997, which prohibits the transfer of a firearm without a child safety lock as an integral component.

I am committed to helping the juvenile delinquents who are nonviolent in Watts, Willowbrook, Compton, Lynwood, Long Beach, Wilmington and all over my district who have had minor infractions with the law; to seek and help them, through preventive measures, to turn their devious behaviors into more positive outcomes. We can do that, Mr. Speaker. We must do that. They are asking for our help. We must be there to provide that safety net before they become violent offenders. We can do no less.

SALVAGING SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SANFORD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I learned yesterday afternoon of an awfully interesting woman, a woman by the name of Osceola McCarthy of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. I think to a great degree she represents what the American dream is all about, because the American dream is built around the very simple idea of being able to get ahead, of actually being able to build something, of actually being able to build wealth.

Because what is interesting about Osceola McCarthy, a woman of age 87, is that she worked her entire lifetime as a washer woman. Yet toward the end of her life, she went to the local college and said, "I'd like to help out." They were thinking, well, maybe she will give us a cloth doily or maybe a bath mat or something that she had made. Instead she gives them a couple of hundred thousand dollars. The New York Times found this story so interesting that it actually went down and asked her, "How did you end up with a couple of hundred thousand dollars only working as a washer woman?" She said, "Well, I put a little bit away whenever I got a chance, and I put it away for a long time." I think in doing so, she hints at what could be one of the keys to, I think, saving Social Security as we know it. Because Einstein was once asked, "What is the most powerful force in the universe?" His reply was, "Compound interest."

As we all know, it is amazing what one can end up with at the end of a working lifetime by simply putting a little bit away over a long enough period of time. Because what the Social Security trustees have said is that if we do nothing, Social Security goes bankrupt in 2029, and it begins to run deficits in 2012, such that either we have got to look at raising payroll taxes by about 16 percent or we have got to look at cutting benefits by

about 14 percent. Neither one of those seem to me to be acceptable options. If we look at the other options that are out there, I think they are non-options as well because the other options basically are driven by the fact the demographics have changed. A country we are living longer. That is a great thing. Every year that I grow older, I hope that medicine keeps making medical advances such that they keep moving it out on that front. Average life expectancy when Social Security was created was 62. Today it is 76. That creates a real strain on a pay-as-you-go system. The other demographic fundamental that we are not going to change is that we have gone from having big families on the farm to having relatively small families today. We have gone from having 42 workers for every retiree to having 3.2 workers for every retiree, to being well on our way to having 2 workers for every retiree. Again, that is a fundamental that we are not going to change. So the question I think we are all left with is what do you do? I think that what Osceola McCarthy did has a lot to do with what we can do. That is, build a system that is based on the simple power of compound interest.

When one talks about changing Social Security, we need to define what that change might be, what it might look like. Change for me does not mean in any way yanking the rug out from underneath seniors. My mom is retired. She has no ability to alter her income. You do not go and yank the rug out from under people like my mom. What it means is we leave people 65 and older alone. But what I think it can also mean is we give people below that age simply the choice. If you want to stay on existing Social Security, great, do so. But if you want to look at the idea of personal savings accounts, to build on Einstein's power of compounding, then you can do that, too.

What are some of the benefits that might come with that? One benefit that I think is definitely worth noting is that you could choose for you your retirement age. If you think about it, our existing system comes at a tremendous cost in terms of human happiness. Because in my home State, we have got STROM THURMOND who wants to work until he is 100, yet I have got plenty of other friends that say, "Work is great but fishing is even better. I want to retire when I'm 50." With your own personal savings account, you could decide for you when you want to retire rather than a Congressman or a Senator or a bureaucrat defining for you your retirement age. I think that to be a big benefit. Again we have so many choices in America, we can choose between 25 different kinds of toothpaste, 30 different kinds of detergent, but you cannot choose for you when you want to retire.

Mr. Speaker, I can see I am beginning to rub up against my 5 minutes, I will yield back the balance of my time, but again want to leave in everybody's

thoughts the idea of Osceola McCarthy and this simple theme of compound interest.

DEDICATION OF ETERNITY HALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIGGS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of some coincidence that today is Humanities on the Hill Day, and we had an opportunity, many of us, to meet with the representatives of the Endowment for the Humanities in our local jurisdictions from all over the country.

In that context, I had the privilege of addressing the group who came here this morning for a few minutes, and had a chance to comment to them about a recent event in Hawaii at Schofield Barracks where I had the opportunity to deliver remarks at the dedication of Eternity Hall, Eternity Hall in Quadrangle D at Schofield Barracks. That occasion was on April 2, 1997.

Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, marks the 20th anniversary of the death of James Jones, the author of "From Here to Eternity." I would like to take this opportunity, then, today to deliver yet again the comments that were made on that occasion, to indicate to my colleagues that tomorrow the film "From Here to Eternity" will be shown at Schofield Barracks, because the young soldiers that are there have taken a renewed interest in their history, have taken a renewed interest in Schofield Barracks and in World War II and, by extension, the author who made it possible for us to understand more about ourselves as a result of the great art that is "From Here to Eternity."

Mr. Speaker, "From Here to Eternity," like all great works of art, transcends its form. In this instance, the novel. Like all great works of art, it transforms those who experience it, its readers. It transposes its content, the characters and their actions, into a larger vision of life itself, a dimension of depth beyond the story itself.

Schofield Barracks is the stage upon which the story unfolds. But it is not events of which we learn. Rather, we learn the meaning of integrity, honesty, honor, and above all, what it takes to be human. This is what it meant to me. "From Here to Eternity" shaped the basic values I hold to this day.

So it was with a sense of outrage that I read a sneering, wounding article about James Jones just before leaving for Europe in 1967 on a backpack trek around the world. I had no idea I would literally walk into him in Paris some weeks later.

I knew it was him the moment I saw this short, square block of a man plowing down the avenue. In my mind's eye now I see a cigar clamped in his

clenched jaw, but perhaps it is only because I like to believe it was there. All I really saw were his eyes. How could such gentle eyes be locked into such a rugged mug of a face?

To his friend William Styron, and I quote, "was there ever such a face, with its Beethovenesque brow and lantern jaw and stepped-upon-looking nose. A forbidding face until one realized that it only seemed to glower, since the eyes really projected a skeptical humor that softened the initial impression of rage."

On impulse, I spoke to him. "Don't pay any attention to the critics. You write for us, for me. We're the readers. Pruitt, Warden, Maggio, they're real for us. "From Here to Eternity" means everything for us. What you write is important to us. To hell with the critics. Keep writing for us." Or some such blither.

□ 1915

I felt a total fool. He stared at me, and I bolted away. A few days later I found myself outside his home on the Ile St. Louis behind Notre Dame. The San Francisco Diggers who fed the homeless during those years had published a directory of Americans worldwide who could be counted on to be kind to American travelers in need. I had come upon it in a Left Bank book store, and Jones's name and address were in it.

I rang the bell on impulse out of both a desire to apologize and yet tell him again more clearly how much he meant to us as readers. A suspicious housekeeper somehow agreed to tell him that the man who stopped him on the Right Bank the other day wanted to see him.

Amazingly she returned animated. By all means Mr. Jones would see me. He was anxious to see me. Please come up. Would it be possible to wait a few minutes while he finished his writing for the day. Please don't leave.

I was a bit dazed as I sat on a stool on what appeared to be a tiny bar and library area. Suddenly he burst through a door, barrel-chested, huge smile, moving like a pulling guard on a halfback sweep.

"Am I glad to see you. I told Gloria," his wife Gloria, "I told Gloria all about our meeting. I've been writing on the energy of it for the past two weeks. I never seem to meet readers any more. It's always somebody who wants something from me. How about a drink?"

From that moment, I ceased to be a fan. I became a fierce partisan. I had never met anyone so nakedly honest in his observations and inquiries, so plain-spokenly straight. No rhetorical brilliance, just easy-fit words and thoughts expressed as solid and simple as a beating heart, just like From Here to Eternity.

In 1951, the Los Angeles Times said:

James Jones has written a tremendously compelling and compassionate story. The scope covers the full range of the human condition, man's fate and man's hope. It is a tribute to human dignity.

The book was From Here to Eternity. Its author was 30 years old. In March of 1942, he had written to his brother Jeff from his bunk at Schofield Barracks.

Sometimes the air is awfully clear here. You can look off to sea and see the soft, warm, raggedy roof of clouds stretching on and on and on. It almost seems as if you can look right on into eternity.

It is 20 years tomorrow since James Jones died, leaving his work to speak for him and to us.

Biographer George Garret said,

Boy and man, Jones never lost his energetic interest, his continual curiosity, the freshness of his vision. It was these qualities, coupled with the rigor of his integrity, which defined the character of his life's work.

Others, of course, recognize these qualities and wish to speak for and about James Jones on this anniversary of his passing.

Winston Groom, George Hendrick, Norman Mailer, William Styron, whose Forward to To Reach Eternity: The letters of James Jones, I include here in its totality and from which I will read, Mr. Speaker, excerpts, and Willie Morris, friend and biographer of his last days, all are represented in the remarks which follow.

First is a letter to me from Winston Groom:

Dear Congressman ABERCROMBIE: Gloria Jones asked me to write to you regarding the dedication of a building in Schofield Barracks in honor of her late husband, James Jones.

This is a wonderful and fitting tribute to a fine soldier and a great writer who contributed perhaps more than any other to the public understanding of the military during the World War II era.

Long before I wrote Forrest Gump I began a friendship with Jim Jones which was cut far too short by his untimely death. He was always kind and giving to the younger generation of writers and took time to help me with my first novel, Better Times Than These, which was about the Vietnam War. In fact, I dedicated that book to Jim.

I congratulate you and all the others who worked to create this very appropriate memorial to a great American patriot and champion of the common soldier.

Respectfully yours, Winston Groom.

I received a letter from George Hendrick, a professor of English at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Dear Neil: I'm sending along, as promised, the statement for the Schofield Barracks ceremony. I am certainly pleased to know about this important event and to play some small part in it.

The university library has acquired the manuscript of From Here To Eternity and The Pistol, and they will be on exhibit at the next meeting of the James Jones Literary Society in Springfield on November 4 of this year. I hope you can attend.

Professor Hendrick's comments are as follows:

Pvt. James Jones, then a member of the air corps, transferred to the 27th Infantry Regiment at Schofield Barracks in September of 1940. Jones, not yet 19 years old, was already an aspiring novelist, and he was later to have a clear recollection of life in F Company in Quad D, of the lives of officers and enlisted men, and of the landscape around Schofield. In From Here to Eternity