Meg is a 1978 political science/economics graduate from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, PA.

She began her career with the United States House of Representatives in 1978 as a legislative information specialist.

In 1981 she became the Assistant Journal Clerk, helping to compile and publish this important publication.

In 1983 she became the House Reading Clerk.

Often seen and often heard, Meg is an active part of the backbone which helps make the institution of Congress function.

From her perch on the dias, she has had a ringside seat on the history of America.

I know that my colleagues join me in wishing Meg the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. ROUKEMA. I yield to the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I feel, as I am sure everyone else in the House felt, that I had a very special relationship with Meg. When I first came here 12 years ago, I learned that one of the things that freshmen do is have the great honor of presiding over Special Orders. I took to that, it was a wonderful thing for me to be doing, and made so much easier because of Meg.

I always relished being able to do it early in the week, because Meg Goetz and Paul Hayes and I share a special passion that we have never discussed with anybody on the floor of the House. That is that we are totally devoted to the Sunday New York Times crossword puzzle. So even though the issue of the special order was sometimes grim, sometimes not, we always had a fallback position where we could say, ''Did you get 22 across?''

Meg has been, as everyone said before me, a pillar of strength in this House, and the millions of people in this country who understand how this democracy works and the way she has always conducted herself, with extraordinary decorum and with extraordinarily good judgment, know that a lot of good things about this House are because of the dedication and work that Meg Goetz brought to it.

I envy the people that Meg is going to leave us to work for. They are getting a woman of great character and professionalism and ability, and I look forward to working with her in her new capacity.

But I do want her to know that coming here as a freshman, as everyone else can say, I am sure, as equally well as I, to have the friendship of Meg Goetz to help us over the intricacies and the tough problems, never, never losing patience, always explaining over and over again, if need be, but always there to help us to do the right thing, she was bringing, obviously, to her job the professionalism that she felt, working for the House of Representatives, the United States Congress deserved.

Meg, we shall miss you, and thank you for all of your friendship to me, and thank you on behalf of all of the others here, because I know how much you have meant to each and every one of us. God bless.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. ROUKEMA. I yield to the gentlewoman from Maryland.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to add my thanks, also, and appreciation for all that Meg has done for all of us. She has been a real pillar of perseverance, of patience, when she has been there to witness our deliberations. She has been a rock of stability, and yet always in her quiet, very professional way, has been there to help us in any way that we needed.

So I have always looked to Meg, as other colleagues have, as all my colleagues have, as somebody who is part of the institution and who has made it so very great.

My best wishes to you as you go forward and have a great adventure; and as Shakespeare would say, those about her from her shall learn the perfect ways of honor. Thank you, cheerio, and come back and see us.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Meg, May I conclude by saying, God bless and Godspeed.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). The Chair lays before the House a privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 98) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 98

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, May 21, 1998, Friday, May 22, 1998 Saturday May 23, 1998, or Sunday May 24, 1998, pursuant to motion made by the Majority Lender or his designee in accordance with this concurrent resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on ''Monday, June 1, 1998, or until such time on that day as may be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first, and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, May 22, 1998, or Saturday May 23, 1998 pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader or this designee in accordance with his concurrent resolution, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, 1998, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to sections of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the pubic interest shall warrant it.

□ 1215

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). Without objection, the Senate concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 442 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2183.

□ 1215

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2183) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes, with Mrs. EMERSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. Gejdenson), each will control 1 hour.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Madam Chairman, I yield myself 8 minutes.

Madam Chairman, as we observed under the rule that was passed, we are beginning a process which is one of the more open processes in the history of the House of Representatives. In the area of campaign reform, we have an underlying bill, and we have 10 substitutes that will be made in order.

In addition to that, there will be amendments that would be perfecting amendments that will be made in order to those substitutes. It begins to sound as though it could be a very confusing and difficult process.

What Members need to know is that we have already shrunk the potential amendments from almost 600 to closer to 300. Now, 300 is still a rather ominous sounding number and, as we begin to prepare and structure those amendments, I think we will find that they will shrink even more.

But to try to assist Members, ''You do not know the players without a program,'' as they say in sports, The Congressional Research Service is in the final hours of preparing a document which I think will prove invaluable to Members. It will provide, for example, a quick glance, in terms of a checkoff procedure, indicating which general areas each particular substitute involves itself. For example, does it deal with spending or benefits limits, political action committees? What does it do with individuals, parties, candidates,