

who currently serve. Indeed, the House is an institution that works best because of the personal relationship it is built on. And, I have been blessed because of the many friends I have made here—friends from both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, my favorite rhetorical question is to ask why a middle-aged mother of four would run for Congress. My answer: to add something.

During my six years, I believe I have added something. To be sure, I would have liked to accomplish more and to have generated more bipartisanship. I often say that life has many chapters and, as one closes, another opens—sometimes unexpectedly, even serendipitously.

I want to thank all my colleagues who have made my tenure here exciting and rewarding. From the two speakers under whom I've served, Tom Foley and NEWT GINGRICH, to my many colleagues past and present on the committees on which I've served, to those I have met through the variety of ad hoc caucuses and coalitions that arise during the course of governing—thank you all. To my superb staff, you demonstrate everyday what public service is all about. To my family and especially my husband, Sidney, you are, in every way, the wind beneath my wings.

Serving here has been a labor of love. And I thank the citizens of California's 36th Congressional District for the extraordinary opportunity to represent you.

SAUDI GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTING TO CHEAT AMERICAN COMPANY FOR JOB WELL DONE

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, 14 years after the successful completion of the Yanuba Power and Desalination plant in Saudi Arabia, New Jersey-based Hill International is still fighting for payment for the work done by its former subsidiary Gibbs and Hill.

As many of my colleagues know, historically, U.S. firms have had difficulty collecting payment from the Saudi government for work done in Saudi Arabia.

It got so bad that, in 1993, Congress ordered the Department of Defense to investigate the claims and report on all outstanding billings. Of all the claims identified by former Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, only one, the Gibbs and Hill claim, remains unpaid.

Mr. Speaker, nobody in Saudi Arabia claims that the work done by Gibbs and Hill was inadequate nor was it incomplete. In fact, the Saudi government points with pride to the plant. They just do not want to pay for it.

Mr. Speaker, both the House and the Senate have passed my legislation requiring the Department of State, Commerce, and Defense to aggressively pursue a resolution with the Saudi government and report back to Congress. Recently, Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Ambassador Martin Indyk, assured me and the full Com-

mittee on International Relations he will aggressively press this. The time has long come to pay this bill.

In 1993 the Saudis promised Secretary Aspin that they would "spare no efforts in resolving these additional claims in a fair and expeditious manner." Many here in Congress have worked hard to get the Saudis to make good on their promise. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, I have raised the issue of unpaid bills to every appropriate member of the Clinton Administration at the State Department and DOD. I've spoken with our Ambassador in Saudi Arabia, Wyche Fowler. And my colleagues and I have pushed this issue directly with Saudi officials, including Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar.

Yet, the bill still goes unpaid.

I hope that will be enough. It is time the Saudis get the message, not just from Congress, but from the Clinton Administration as well. We will not sit idle as the Saudi government tries to cheat an American company for a job well done.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2204. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2364. An act to reauthorize and make reforms to programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 and the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965."

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 1930

URGING CONGRESS TO COMPLETE LEGISLATION ON DISASTER RELIEF, TRADE POLICIES, AND TAX ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS BEFORE CONCLUDING SESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight as we are hopefully concluding this legislative congressional session in hopes that before we return to our respective districts at home, that we make certain that certain business before this Congress is concluded.

We have all been made aware over the last several months, really over the last year, about how serious of a problem American agriculture faces as our farmers, because of significant reductions in commodity prices, but also because of weather and disease, have fared so poorly in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that in these final days of this session, as we try to find the solutions to our problems and reach the compromises that we desire and that are reasonably acceptable to a majority of Members of Congress, we do not lose sight of the crisis that American farmers and ranchers face.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that before we return home and the final gavel of this session reaches the desktop, that we make certain that the disaster relief bill, at least a version of what we have previously passed by this House and the Senate, although vetoed by the President, I hope that we get disaster relief passed and included in that final appropriation bill.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we have passed legislation which helps open markets around the world. The Agricultural Trade Embargo Act, offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING), has passed this House. As I talked to the farmers across my district, it is clear they understand the importance of exports, exports, exports, and trade, trade, trade.

When my farmers and ranchers hear that 52 percent of the people in this world live in countries that we cannot sell to, that they cannot sell to, they know that Congress and the President have failed in their responsibilities.

Under the current farm bill, we have told American agriculture to farm the markets. We have told American agriculture to go out and find the countries to sell to, and to sell the commodities that the world demands. Yet, this Congress and this administration have failed to open those markets and make them available to the farmers and ranchers across this country.

So I encourage the inclusion of significant changes in the law that prohibit future embargoes and sanctions, and also that repeal the embargoes and sanctions that are currently on the books, where appropriate.

I hope that we take care of disaster relief, I hope we do something for trade sanctions and embargoes, and in addition, I hope that we do not leave the issue of taxes and the farmer and rancher and small businessman and woman and oil producer unattended before we conclude this session. Clearly we need help when it comes to the tax burdens faced by our farmers and ranchers.

So again, disaster assistance, trade embargoes, and tax relief are important. Finally, I would encourage, once again, the administration to use the export enhancement program. For almost 2 years now, I have begged, pleaded, encouraged, demanded, insisted, requested, without any success, that this administration utilize the Export Enhancement Program that, at least in