

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE RIGHTS OF AMERICAN LABOR SHOULD BE RESPECTED

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state my strong opposition to efforts now being made by the Republican Majority to weaken U.S. laws that protect the rights of American workers.

The United States has a proud labor history based on independent unions and the progress achieved in the living standards of working class American families reflects this history. America's unions have played a central role in guaranteeing that workers in our country participate in the benefits of economic growth. American labor struggled for decades to ensure that the rights of working men and women were respected by employers and public officials responsible for making and enforcing our Nation's laws.

U.S. labor laws benefit all working families, regardless of whether they may participate in a collective bargaining organization. Landmark legislation enacted in the 1930's established a minimum wage and the 40-hour week, protected our Nation's children from dangerous and exploitative working conditions, and guaranteed the rights of Americans to bargain collectively. Tragically, Americans labor laws are currently under attack by the new Republican majority in the House.

Republican Leaders in the House have proposed to revise or eliminate legal rights established as long as six decades ago. Rights taken for granted by most Americans are now in jeopardy. House Majority Leader RICHARD ARMEY has stated that he not only opposed any increase in the minimum wage but would instead advocate the repeal of this historic U.S. labor law.

One clear attempt to have Congress retreat from the labor rights protected currently by U.S. law is H.R. 743, the Team Act. This bill would amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to establish company labor organizations that would effectively compete with independent unions. H.R. 743 would overturn existing law which prohibits employers from establishing management-controlled worker groups to oversee workplace issue. The intent of this legislation is to set aside National Labor Relations Board ruling that have prevented nonunion employers from using sham company unions to discourage the organization of independent collective bargaining units.

I believe that the House must reject the Team Act and any other similar legislation that would undermine the rights of American workers to unionize. The National Labor Relations Act has succeeded in promoting fair and open negotiation between labor and management over workplace issues important to both parties. Abandoning the principles of this landmark legislation is wrong.

Another example of an attack on labor is the plan to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act that benefits all American communities by ensuring that federally funded construction projects are built by construction companies employing skilled and experienced workers. Davis-Bacon denies unscrupulous fly-by-night operators an opportunity to undercut local wages. Davis-Bacon has also saved taxpayers money by ensuring that qualified companies are used to complete Federal construction projects on-time and on-budget.

Without Davis-Bacon, more than a half million American construction workers will see their wages pushed down by fly-by-night contractors. Legitimate companies will be put under pressure to pay substandard wages. Federal income tax receipts would also be reduced by at least \$1 billion a year if Davis-Bacon were repealed.

The results of Davis-Bacon repeal can be observed at the State level. The nine States that have repealed State prevailing wage laws have seen construction wages fall and State treasuries have lost substantial income and sale tax revenues. In Utah, the size of cost overruns on State road construction tripled. The use of less skilled and less experienced construction workers has also led to an increase in the number of injuries and fatalities in the workplace.

A repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act is simply a bad idea. Any imagined benefit of a Davis-Bacon repeal is far outweighed by the costs in dollars and in the lives of American workers. I urge my colleagues in the House to just say no to the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that each Member of the House should let their constituents know where they stand on the issue of protecting the legal rights of American working men and women. I hope my colleagues will join with me in fighting to ensure that the U.S. House of Representatives respects the right of American labor.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE NEW BRITAIN MUSICAL CLUB ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I extend my congratulations to the New Britain Musical Club on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. The members of the club, which was formed in 1920 by Theron Wolcott Hart, will celebrate this milestone at its annual banquet this evening.

The New Britain Musical Club has grown throughout the decades, with members first gathering in each others' homes and now at the First Church of Christ Congregational. At their monthly performances, members and guests of the club present vocal and instru-

mental selections representing a broad range of musical interests. The New Britain Musical Club has offered the citizens of the Hardware City an opportunity to attend performances of dance, the classics, and popular music combined with good fellowship with their neighbors.

The club members have also demonstrated their love of music through the establishment of scholarships to students with outstanding musical ability for the Julliard School of Music. For close to 50 years, the New Britain Musical Club has sponsored an Advert concert of Handel's Messiah for the community. The club is a valuable asset in New Britain, CT's rich cultural fabric where the presentation of music and art is highly prized.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT SESSIONS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the untimely passing of a fine man and an outstanding public servant, chief of police Robert Sessions of Barstow, CA. Chief Sessions, a 28-year member of the department and an inspiring presence to the city of Barstow, died on May 20 after a brief battle with cancer.

Bob Sessions was born on March 23, 1940 and received a A.A. degree in education from Barstow Community College and a B.S. degree in sociology from Chapman College. He also graduated from the FBI's National Academy. In 1963, Bob married Carol Dawson and later they adopted two children, Jon and Jennifer. Together they moved to Barstow to make their home and work for Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway. Four years later, Bob became a reserve officer with the Barstow Police Department and was sworn in as a full time peace officer in 1968.

Over the years, Bob worked his way through the ranks of the Barstow Police Department assuming the position of patrol officer, K-9 officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. In September 1985 Bob was promoted to chief of police. During his tenure, Chief Sessions implemented numerous programs and projects including the Drug Abuse Resistance and Education [DARE] Program, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program [RSVP], the Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving Program, and many others.

Chief Sessions' involvement in and support for numerous professional organizations is well known. He was a past president of the San Bernardino County Chiefs' Association, as well as a member of the California Chiefs of Police Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the California Peace Officer's Association, and many others. In addition, Chief Sessions played an extraordinary and active role in our civic and community life as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and Latter Day Saints, and participating in the Barstow Rodeo, scouting programs, and the reading program in local schools.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Bob's family and many friends in paying tribute to this fine man. Chief Sessions was dearly loved and respected by the entire Barstow community and he will be greatly missed. Indeed, he touched and protected the lives of many people and it is only fitting that the House of Representatives honor him today.

AN AMENDMENT TO TREAT ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTERS LIKE OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE EXCLUSION FOR EMPLOYER-PROVIDED HOUSING

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am joined today by Mr. RANGEL, and Mrs. MALONEY, in introducing legislation to provide an exclusion for employer-provided housing for academic health centers the same as provided to other educational institutions. In the 1986 Tax Reform Act, Congress enacted a safe harbor provision for college and university-owned housing provided to certain faculty and staff. Under the safe harbor provision, the difference between the fair market value and the actual rent for campus housing provided to employees of an educational institution is excluded from gross income to the employees. In the 1986 Act, academic health centers were not included in the safe harbor provision.

The legislation that is being introduced today would afford the same safe harbor provision to academic health centers, and place them on equal footing with colleges and universities. I believe that academic health centers are important national resources that provide significant contributions to the Nation's understanding and treatment of diseases affecting our citizens.

The arguments that applied to the safe harbor provision for colleges and universities in the 1986 tax law are the same arguments that apply to an academic health center.

The benefits of providing faculty and staff housing enables the center to attract and retain a full-time faculty and staff to fulfill the mission of the institution. For institutions located in high rent areas such as New York City, this provision is essential for the institution to carry out its missions of patient care, education, and research.

Second, many of the tenants of academic center-owned housing are pursuing advanced degrees and training at the center and usually at substantial financial hardship. In addition, the faculty and staff of an academic health center are often living in the same building as faculty and staff of a neighboring university.

Our bill would amend the definition of "educational institution" under section 119(d) of the Internal Revenue Code. The amendment would ensure that academic health centers, which are not part of a college or university, but nevertheless are teaching institutions, would qualify for the section 119(d) special valuation rule. This change would correct the

anomalous situation under current law where a qualified educational institution can use the rule and an academic health center cannot, even though the two institutions must hire and compete for the same highly qualified employees.

The proposed amendment narrowly defines "academic health center" to focus only on rectifying the competitive problem that I've described. Under the proposed amendment, the academic health center must: First, qualify as a tax exempt hospital or medical research organization eligible to receive charitable contributions, second, receive graduate medical education Federal funding, and third, engage in and teach basic and clinical medical science and research with the organization's own standing faculty.

We believe that the legislation will allow for a fair and equitable competitive market for these skilled and qualified employees.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD TENNESSEN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to commend one of the island's premier educators, Dr. Richard Tennesen. Through the years, has made great contributions toward the development of Guam through his work in the field of education. It is only befitting that he was selected as this year's Association of Community College Trustees [ACCT], Pacific Region Trustee Leadership Awardee.

Dr. Tennesen's roots on the island run deep. He first came to the island as a contract teacher back in 1955. He moved on to become the principal of Barrigada Junior High, and later of George Washington High School. He also served as superintendent of schools under Gov. Manuel Guerrero and as the dean of the University of Guam's College of Education.

It was, however, at his present post as chairman of the Guam Community College board of trustees that Dr. Tennesen received this coveted award from the ACCT. His selection is truly a great honor, considering the fact that he was chosen over hundreds of trustee chairmen from all areas in the Pacific region, including Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Nevada, Arizona, California, and Hawaii. Dr. Tennesen's selection also marks the first time that a trustee from Guam won the award.

For over three decades, Dr. Richard Tennesen directly assisted in the development of Guam through his work in the field of education. Having been a former colleague of Dr. Tennesen and an educator myself, I understand and appreciate the significance of his efforts. I commend him for all the good work that he has done for the island of Guam and congratulate him on winning this prestigious award. On behalf of the people of Guam, I join his wife, the former Julie Taitano and his children, Lori and Gene, in proudly celebrating the outcome of his hard work. We commend his work and his contributions to the island of Guam.

SALUTING SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT DR. JACK R. ANDERSON

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, permit me to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of our colleagues an outstanding individual who has garnered widespread respect and admiration throughout southeastern New York.

Dr. Jack R. Anderson has been superintendent of schools in the East Ramapo School District, in Rockland County, NY, since 1977. He has brought national, and even international, recognition to the East Ramapo School District through his educational vision, his leadership, and his strong support for program which had been initiated in his community.

East Ramapo was a culturally and ethnically diverse community when Dr. Anderson first arrived. Although that diversity still exists, Dr. Anderson has devoted himself to bringing all in the community closer together. When he first arrived, all eleven labor unions who do business with the East Ramapo School District were without contracts, the district was in the midst of austerity budgets, enrollment in the schools was declining, the community was factionalized, and the NAACP has filed student and staff discrimination charges.

In a short period of time, Dr. Anderson negotiated contracts, ended the labor crisis, re consolidated and reorganized the schools to more accurately reflect population patterns, and resolved all discrimination issues with the NAACP.

Because of his outstanding record of 18 years of service, Dr. Jack Anderson was designated as the New York State Superintendent of the Year earlier this year by the American Association of School Administrators. More recently, he was designated by the same group as one of the four top school administrators in the entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed a close working relationship with Dr. Anderson for many years. I consider him to be an astute and insightful individual, who strongly believes that the education of our young people is an investment in the future of our society, and is therefore our most important priority.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of our colleagues to join with me in saluting an outstanding individual, Superintendent Dr. Jack R. Anderson of the East Ramapo School District.

SETTING INTERNATIONAL PRIORITIES

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us provides an opportunity to reorder our international priorities and put our fiscal house in order. This bill represents the first major reform in overseas operations in 50 years by slashing \$1.8 billion from the President's 1996 fiscal year request.

This bill eliminates AID, USIA, and ACDA, three bloated and inefficient agencies and