

BALDACCI from Maine. The GOP freshmen came in with big reform plans for Congress. Now, when a gift ban is proposed, we're told that this is not the proper legislative vehicle for considering it, that it is too difficult to make these determinations in this bill.

Fortunately, there are some good questions the House will have an opportunity to discuss:

First, clerk-hire, official expenses, and mail. We'll be considering an amendment to cut costs more severely in the accounts affecting our personal offices even as a major cost-shifting effort is contemplated that will have a significant impact on the day-to-day operations of our personal offices.

Second, the proper funding level for Members' mail. We've slashed funding for mail significantly in the last few years—we'll have another chance to see if the Members feel we've finally done enough.

Third, the operation of the Government Printing Office and our depository libraries program. It is fitting that we consider the proper funding level for depository libraries especially as we move to an increased level of electronic dissemination of documents.

I'm grateful to the Rules Committee that we will also have a good debate about the vital support organizations for Congress that help us do our job.

There is a good amendment offered by Mr. CLINGER and our colleagues, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CONNIT, and Mr. DAVIS to add funding to the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] in support of the important work they have been given in the unfunded mandates legislation passed by Congress earlier this year. I'm concerned about the offset they are offering in abolishing funding for the American Folklife Center, but it is important to talk about the resources needed for CBO to do their job properly for us.

Two good amendments take up the question of the Office of Technology Assessment [OTA]. My amendment is a straight restoration of OTA with a 15 percent cut in line with our cut to the General Accounting Office. Mr. Houghton's amendment would cut OTA further—to \$15 million—and make further savings by shifting their box on the organizational chart to Congressional Research Service.

I'm also grateful to the Rules Committee for allowing us to take up this important question of the authority of the Joint Tax Committee regarding refunds for our largest taxpayers.

This authority was, in my opinion, mistakenly eliminated in this bill. Joint tax works closely with the U.S. Treasury and provides a vital legislative check on their work, finding errors in approximately 9 percent of the cases reviewed and easily paying for the limited resources we devote to this function each year. There are solid reasons for joint tax performing this function, and I'm pleased that we will have a chance to point those out to the membership.

We will have some good debates. But the Rules Committee has left out too many important questions and has continued their intransigence in permitting the House to debate a gift ban. I oppose this rule, and I ask my colleagues to send this rule back to the Rules Committee to open up this debate and permit us to take up additional important questions that affect this institution and the way we conduct the people's business here.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS K. MOUROUFAS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chris K. Mouroufas, a proud Greek-American, a great civic leader, and an extraordinary friend who passed away this month.

Mr. Mouroufas lived the American success story. Born in Messina, Greece, he emigrated to the United States, built a prosperous business, and became widely known in the Greek-American community for his willingness to help newcomers. He was a leader in the affairs of the city of San Francisco, having been appointed to the San Francisco Protocol Committee by mayors George Moscone, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, and Art Agnos. In addition, Mayor Agnos named Mr. Mouroufas to the San Francisco Film Commission, where he served as chairman.

Mr. Speaker, Chris Mouroufas was a prominent member of the San Francisco Bay area who selflessly gave his time and talents to make our community a better place. What he cherished most was his family and his family of friends. He was a man of his word, a man of loyalty and a man of integrity. When Chris Mouroufas extended himself in friendship, it was a bond for life. I know, I was blessed to be his friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him and all he did as a noble citizen of a nation he embraced, served, and loved, and extend our deepest sympathies to his beloved wife, Tula, and godson, Christopher.

SAYING NO TO MOBUTU

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, President Mobutu of Zaire has ruled his country for over 30 years, during which period he has become one of the world's richest individuals by impoverishing his fellow countrymen. I wish to place into the RECORD the following exchange of letters between International Relations Committee Chairman BENJAMIN A. GILMAN and I and the Department of State concerning the issue of granting a visa to President Mobutu to visit the United States.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, June 21, 1995.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: Thank you for the letter which you and Chairman Gilman sent to the Secretary on May 19 expressing concern about a possible visit to the United States by President Mobutu of Zaire. We assure you that President Mobutu will not be coming to Washington and that the U.S. visa sanction directed against him and his entourage remains in effect. We agree that President Mobutu needs to demonstrate by his deeds rather than statements that he is committed to a genuine transition to democracy in Zaire. We appreciate your bipartisan support for our Zaire policy.

As you know, the President issued a proclamation in June 1993 suspending the entry

into the United States of immigrants and nonimmigrants who formulate or implement policies impeding a transition to democracy in Zaire or who benefit from such policies, and the immediate families of such persons. The intention of the proclamation was to send a strong message to President Mobutu that his obstruction of Zaire's transition to democracy was not without penalty. The visa sanction has been—and remains—one of our most effective measures to influence Mobutu and his entourage, and we have seen no change on the part of the Zairian president which would warrant a reversal of this policy.

President Mobutu has not applied for a visa to the United States, but if he or persons acting for him do so, we will remind him that he remains subject to the visa proclamation. On the basis of rumors of an impending visit, our Charge d'Affaires in Kinshasa made a formal demarche to the office of the Presidency, outlining our continuing concerns about the slow pace of the transition, and reiterating that President Mobutu remains subject to the visa sanction.

Rumors of a Mobutu visit to Washington appear to have been generated entirely by the Zairian president and a number of lobbyists in his employ. His agents attempted—unsuccessfully—to obtain an invitation for Mobutu to address a variety of private organizations. When it became clear that neither invitation nor visa would be forthcoming, President Mobutu's spokesman in parliament announced that the Zairian leader had decided to postpone travel in view of the outbreak of the Ebola virus in Kikwit.

You should know that there is a strong possibility that President Mobutu may attend the 50th U.N. General Assembly in New York this fall. While the Presidential proclamation on visas would permit us to refuse a visa to Mobutu for a bilateral visit, our international obligations under the U.N. Headquarters Agreement would likely require us to permit his entry to attend the General Assembly.

We hope this information is useful to you. If we can be of further assistance to you on this or any other matter, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

WENDY R. SHERMAN,
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, May 19, 1995.

Hon. WARREN CHRISTOPHER,
Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: It has come to our attention that President Mobutu of Zaire may be seeking to visit the United States in the near future. We urge you to continue your policy of not granting an entry visa to the United States to President Mobutu of Zaire.

We strongly believe that such a visit should not take place. The visa restriction policy is one of the few instruments of leverage the U.S. has on President Mobutu and his regime. While we hope that President Mobutu is serious in his recent statements concerning a return to democracy in Zaire and improved human rights, there is ample reason for skepticism. Allowing Mobutu to visit the United States before any substantial steps have been taken toward resolving the on-going political crisis in Zaire would be an unwarranted retreat from the policy of both the Clinton and Bush Administrations.

Zaire under Mobutu represents perhaps the most egregious example of the misuse of U.S. assistance resources. The U.S. has given Zaire nearly \$1.5 billion in various forms of

aid since Mobutu came to power thirty years ago. Partially because of this assistance, Mobutu has been able to maintain control of Zaire and bleed the country into its current dismal state. In recent years, Mobutu has resisted both domestic and international pressure for democratization and continues to cling to power.

In both the 102d and 103d Congress, the House passed bipartisan resolutions calling on Mobutu to step down from power and urging that the United States continue active efforts to this end. Allowing Mobutu to visit the United States at this time would be directly counter to the letter and spirit of these resolutions.

We look forward to your early reply and to working with you on this issue.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.
BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
Chairman.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1854) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I share the concerns of the gentleman from Utah [Mr. ORTON], who is offering this amendment to add resources to the Superintendent of Documents.

The committee is undertaking an enlightened policy of providing the greatest possible incentives to Federal agencies to shift their reliance on traditional printing and switch to electronic dissemination of documents to the greatest extent possible. By shifting the cost of printing documents to the originating agencies instead of assuming responsibility for it in our legislative appropriation, it is thought that agencies are more likely to scrutinize their needs and consider whether making documents available electronically will suit their purposes just as well, with the added benefit of decreased overall costs to the Federal Government.

However, frequent users of our Federal depository libraries have raised some legitimate concerns.

First, our experience with electronic dissemination is limited. For example, last year the Government Printing Office acquired and distributed over 20 million copies of publications, some 65,000 titles—but only 306 titles were provided by GPO in electronic format to participating libraries.

Second, although we want to encourage electronic distribution of information, it is also likely that the nature of some documents will never make them suitable for only electronic transfer either because of the nature of their use, or because the users don't have access to computers, or because the libraries need a permanent printed copy for historical research purposes.

Last, there is also legitimate concern that agencies, faced with these additional costs,

will use the costs as an excuse not to comply with their obligations under the law in making documents available to depository libraries. Since at least some problems with fugitive documents are of concern to depository libraries already, then this changeover is certainly a process we want to monitor carefully.

Because of the legitimate concerns raised by librarians and others familiar with the depository library system, I offered and the chairman accepted language at the full Appropriations Committee meeting to ensure that the public's access to information will remain unchanged and to see that this changeover is administered smoothly. The language, which appears on page 31 of the report states:

The Committee's intent is that the public's access to information through Federal Depository Libraries will not be reduced as a result of these policies, but will be maintained and enhanced. The Committee expects the Superintendent of Documents to monitor these new policies and report about the progress of the agencies in converting to electronic format and distribution, complying with the reimbursement policy, and the effects of these policies on the availability of documents to the public.

So I share the concerns of the gentleman from Utah, and the committee has taken steps, as outlined in the report, to monitor this changeover carefully.

I am also concerned about offsets offered by the gentleman from the Botanic Garden's conservatory renovation funds. Although the funds provided by the committee appear to be a substantial boost to the Botanic Garden's normal appropriations, the additional funds represent a multiyear effort that is also dependent on private funds for this long-overdue project.

For both reasons, I oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to vote against it.

NOTING THE PASSING OF FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE IKE THOMPSON

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to announce the passing of a former member of the Ohio State House of Representatives. On June 25, 1995, the Cleveland community mourned the death of Isaiah "Ike" Thompson. For 20 years, Ike Thompson represented Cleveland's east side in the Ohio Legislature. His district included portions of Glenville, Euclid, Bratenahl, and East Cleveland.

The passing of Ike Thompson brings to a close a distinguished career of public service. I join members of the Cleveland community, Ike's family and colleagues in mourning the loss of a talented legislator and a good friend. I rise today to reflect upon the life of Ike Thompson and to share with my colleagues some information regarding his political career.

Mr. Speaker, Ike Thompson was born in Birmingham, AL, and moved to Cleveland during his early childhood. He attended Central High School and Cleveland State University. In 1942, Ike became a factory worker for the Weatherhead Co. He began his political career when he became a precinct committee-man in 1963. Ike also later served as a Demo-

cratic ward leader. In 1970, Ike Thompson was elected to the State House of Representatives. He would spend the next 20 years serving his constituents in that legislative body. It was a job which he took very seriously.

During his first year in the legislature, Ike introduced a bill making it illegal for poll watchers to wear police uniforms and carry guns. He based his initiative on the fact that off-duty policemen entering voting places were intimidating and discouraging potential voters. Over the years, Ike would note that this was the most important legislation that he ever sponsored because it gave people the right to vote without fear. During his first term, Ike Thompson was named by his colleagues as the Number One Rookie Legislator, an honor in which he took great pride.

Throughout his political career, Ike Thompson earned a reputation for his strong legislative efforts on behalf of consumers. He was best known for getting the Ohio Legislature to approve the "lemon law," which protects new car buyers from manufacturing defects. It is praised as one of the strongest such laws in the country. During his tenure in office, Ike was also chosen to serve as executive vice president of the Black Elected Democrats of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Ike Thompson retired from the State legislature in 1990, following 20 years of service to the Greater Cleveland area. We mourn the recent passing of our friend, Ike Thompson. He will always be remembered for his dedication and commitment to public service. As we remember Ike Thompson, we pay tribute to a distinguished legislator who has earned a special place in our State's political history. I offer my condolences to Ike's family, including his wife of 60 years, Lodeamer, and his daughter, Arwilda Storey. I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to a gifted public servant, Ike Thompson.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF WARREN, PA

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the bicentennial of my hometown, Warren, PA. It is a great pleasure to join my family and friends in sharing this special historic event.

This year's Fourth of July celebration holds a special meaning for the people of Warren County. Not only will we commemorate the birth of our great Nation, we will also mark a great milestone in the history of an extraordinary town.

More than two centuries ago, European settlers achieved independence for the Thirteen Colonies, forming the United States of America. In 1795, the Pennsylvania legislature honored the great patriot Gen. Joseph Warren, by granting his name to a valley nestled between the Allegheny Mountains and the Allegheny River. Although General Warren never saw the land which bears his name, his memory lives through the people who reside in Warren today.

Reflecting on 200 years of stable existence, Warrenites have much to be proud of. The