

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1976) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Chairman, I am amazed that the gentleman from Illinois is willing to offer an amendment that will not only directly affect the livelihood and well being of some 124,000 farms in 16 States, but also stop a program that has been benefiting all taxpayers by reducing the Federal deficit. This amendment doesn't affect the big tobacco companies as they might want you to think. It hurts the mom and pop American farmer. It unfairly discriminates against tobacco farmers by denying them access to Federal crop insurance. This is insurance that tobacco farmers have already paid millions of dollars for.

These folks aren't breaking the law and yet the proponents of this amendment would like to treat them like criminals. They want to deny them access to valuable government research, education, and extensions services. The same privileges that farmers of other legal crops all have access to.

These same proponents of this amendment say that these farmers should grow different crops. What they don't understand is in some of these areas tobacco is one of few crops that is capable of growing in their soil. That's why we have family traditions going from generation to generation of growing tobacco in these rural communities.

It's time we leave the small tobacco farmer alone and let them get on with making a living. This amendment is not going to stop one person from smoking, but it will hit rural communities across America with losses of thousands of jobs and dollars.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "no" on the Durbin amendment.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 1995

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives historic vote on the budget resolution sets the stage for congressional action to begin consideration of privatization of PBS. Far from spelling doom for Big Bird or the "MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour," the vote presents public broadcasting with vast opportunities to establish its independence from the Federal Government while preserving its traditional educational mission.

My good friend and colleague MIKE OXLEY—a member of the Commerce Committee—re-

cently stated that it was time for public broadcasting to look beyond its traditional reliance on Federal support for opportunities and alliances in the private sector. By doing so, public broadcasting can insulate itself from politics while securing a reliable and steady source of funding.

What are our options? Public broadcasting's value to viewers, and thus investors, is bound up in its noncommercial emotional identity. One of the most intriguing private sector solutions I have seen to date is the one suggested by our former colleague, Jack Kemp. In a recent Wall Street Journal article, Mr. Kemp called upon PBS to leverage the duplicate public broadcasting stations that exist in most major markets.

According to Mr. Kemp, PBS has 345 stations with sometimes as many as 4 or 5 serving the same market. By contrast, each of the 4 major commercial networks, ABC, NBC, CBS, and Fox have fewer than 225 apiece. By leveraging the commercial potential of its duplicate stations, Mr. Kemp suggests that public broadcasting could preserve the noncommercial, educational nature of the vast majority of its stations while creating a viable and secure source of private sector funding.

With some creative, market-oriented thinking, public broadcasting could be part of a new excitement, finding ways of satisfying the legion of devoted fans and lessen the dependence on the Federal dole. I call upon PBS and its supporters to work with Congress in identifying and developing the kinds of creative and innovative solutions that the new telecommunications market can provide.

Mr. Speaker, I want to see public broadcasting to do the things it does so well, especially the educational mission. But reliance on Federal funding will not keep the system viable. Public broadcasting needs new ideas and new alliances. The market is the place to find them.

IN PRAISE OF POSTAL WORKERS WHO HELP STAMP OUT HUNGER

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 1995

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to praise the efforts of a prominent group of American workers who rarely receive the recognition they deserve—both as representatives of the Federal Government and as private citizens who contribute to their local communities.

These are the postal workers who touch each of our lives nearly every day. For many poor and elderly citizens especially, postal workers are the only representatives of the Federal Government that they see, and those citizens depend on the postal workers for contact with the world and many other needs.

But postal workers assist their communities in far more ways than just by delivering the mail. They volunteer their time and efforts in countless communities across the Nation to help those less fortunate than themselves. On May 13, 1995, the National Association of Letter Carriers [AFL-CIO], with the strong support of the U.S. Postal Service management, conducted a food drive for needy families throughout the Nation. On that day, U.S. Postal Serv-

ice letter carriers collected nonperishable food and canned goods from thousands of generous postal customers who left the food by their mail boxes. The collected food is distributed to hungry people through local food banks and emergency feeding centers.

The annual drive is timed for the second Saturday in May, which is a time of year when food pantries usually run low on donations. This is the third year the drive has been conducted nationwide.

Nationwide, the estimated total collected was more than 44.4 million pounds of food. This was far greater than last year's record total of 32 million pounds. More than 1,130 NALC local branches signed up for the drive, covering an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 communities in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

As chairman of the Democratic Task Force on Hunger and the former chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, I have a strong interest in promoting efforts such as the postal workers' campaign to help the hungry. Furthermore, as the Representative from Dayton, OH, I want to call special attention to the postal workers in the city of Dayton who collected 167,000 pounds of food.

I am proud that I participated in the drive in my district. On May 13, I walked with Dayton Postmaster David Ashworth, letter carrier William Ernest, and Dan Grilliot, president of the Dayton branch of the National Association of Letter Carriers, as they collected food along a postal carrier route. We walked one of the routes in Centerville, OH, in my district.

I now offer praise to the National Association of Letter Carriers, the management of the U.S. Postal Service, and above all, to the men and women of the postal service who participated in this public spirited campaign to help the less fortunate in our communities.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1976) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my strong support for the amendment offered by Mr. DURBIN, our colleagues from Illinois. This amendment restores some sense of perspective to the Agriculture appropriations process, a sense of perspective that seems to be missing in the original language of the bill.

Let's clarify what's at stake here: The E. coli bacteria killed 500 people last year, and sickened over 20,000 more. Most of those killed were innocent children who are not alive today because the food they ate was inspected using practices that were first implemented over 90 years ago.

While our meat inspection process remains stuck in the past, this microscopic bacteria continues to evolve and grow more virulent. It kills its victims by liquefying their organs, a cruel death made all the more tragic by the fact that this viscous bacteria is incredibly easy to detect using existing technology.

The capable people at the USDA have set up new standards to combat *E. coli* and other deadly bacteria, but this bill, as written, is designed to forbid the meat inspectors from performing these simple tests. Please, someone explain to me the logic behind this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to consider their vote on this issue very carefully. We all want to trim unnecessary waste out of the Federal Government. But you know as well as I that the main goal of this legislation is not to rid American citizens of an unneeded expenditure. This bill is not in the best interest of the American citizens. The only interest being served here is the interest of a small group of people who are hiding their profit motive behind the rhetoric of deregulation.

I ask you: Is the health of our children for sale? We have the means to stop these needless deaths. Join with me in supporting the Durbin amendment.

THE SAN DIEGO COASTAL CORRECTIONS ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 1995

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House debated its first Corrections Day bill: H.R. 1943, the San Diego Coastal Corrections Act.

The British poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, in "The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner," evoked "the mystique of the ocean, dark, mysterious, heaving and endless."

Mysterious and heaving it is; endless it is not.

H.R. 1943 assumes that the ocean is endless, that it can absorb any amount of pollution. But, just as we are finding that it is not an inexhaustible store of fish to be mined with impunity, so we will find that it cannot assimilate all man's insults.

This bill is a fitting first Corrections Day bill. H.R. 1943 amends a law which already weakened the Clean Water Act, to weaken it even further. It provides a waiver that the city of San Diego has not sought, ignoring relief the city has been assured by EPA under last year's law, rejecting any discharge standards, permitting the city to provide less treatment for its sewage than it is doing now and discharging almost raw sewage into the Pacific Ocean.

The Ocean Pollution Reduction Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-431) last year gave San Diego the relief it sought from requirements which every other municipality in the country has met or is in the process of meeting.

EPA is ready to grant the waivers to the Clean Water Act, as required under that act.

The House has already passed this bill as part of H.R. 961, this year's amendments to the Clean Water Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1977 opened a brief window for cities with long outfall pipes discharging into deep ocean to continue to do so. San Diego

chose not to avail itself of this relief at the time. The window has long since closed. Now, Congress is asked to reopen that window in a way to let all the flies in.

The Committee on Public Works and Transportation, now the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, held hearings on the ocean waiver in connection with the 1977 amendments. Some witnesses supported ocean discharges as a way of enriching the nutrient-poor depths of the Pacific. But they didn't advocate discharging virtually raw sewage, with its toxins and pathogens, as this bill would permit.

The 1977 language in section 301(h), hard-fought-out between both sides, contained numerous assurances that water quality standards and aquatic life would be protected, and defined primary treatment to mean treatment by "screening, sedimentation, and skimming adequate to remove at least 30 percent of BOD and suspended solids."

Even those requirements may not apply in this case.

At the committee markup of H.R. 1943 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure rejected an amendment that would have imposed at least some standards on the discharge.

Under H.R. 1943, San Diego would be free to discharge almost raw sewage. The bill requires chemically enhanced primary treatment only. The problem is that there is no definition of "chemically enhanced primary treatment" in the bill, or in any law. Does this mean that the city doesn't even have to run its sewage through a screener? That they can just dump a bottle of chlorine into it and call it enhanced primary treatment?

This bill rewards almost two decades of foot-dragging by the city, granting San Diego more bounty than it asked for, while your constituents and mine have paid, and are paying, the full costs of achieving clean water.

How fittingly ironic it would be if the beaches of San Diego had to be closed during the Republican Convention because of pollution—disease-bearing bacteria, viruses and floatables—washing up on the beach.

A TRIBUTE TO SEA ISLAND CO.

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 1995

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. KINGSTON, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Sea Island Co., which recently won the honor of being named as the 1995 Georgia Family Business of the Year.

Once a deserted waterfront, Sea Island was discovered by Howard Coffin and his cousin Alfred W. Jones, Sr. in 1923. Since then, three generations of Joneses have developed the island into a resort of lush gardens and cottages surrounding the impressive Cloister Hotel.

The grandson of Alfred, Alfred W. Jones III, is currently president of the company and responsible for the company's continuing involvement in community development. As one of the area's major landowners, he has contin-

ued his family's tradition of donating company land for churches, schools, parks, and roads, and he himself has been involved in a leadership role with organizations ranging from the Brunswick College Foundation to the Georgia Chamber of Commerce to the Epworth-by-the-Sea Methodist Conference Center.

Since the 1920's, the company has contributed to the community by taking action to ensure that the island's natural habitat be preserved as much as possible. Due to the influence of Sea Island Co., the marshes between Brunswick and the islands were declared historic sites and have been protected from development for several decades. In addition, the building heights on Sea Island and St. Simons were limited to three stories in order to ensure all buildings stand below the tree line.

Other key additions to the community include aid in constructing the first bus service between Brunswick and Jacksonville, creating a telephone exchange, and Alfred Jones' active involvement in the development of the Brunswick Pulp and Paper Co., now owned by Georgia-Pacific and employing over 850 people.

This fall, Sea Island Co. plans to open the Ocean Forest Golf Club, which will be one of the premier courses and will create more employment opportunity on the island. In fact, despite the recent troubled economy, the company has continued to grow and thrive.

Sea Island Co. has been recognized numerous times throughout the years for its accomplishments. Alfred Jones received the Distinguished Georgian Award, and the Society of American Travel Writers' Connie Award honoring his achievement in creating a balance between the use and preservation of Georgia coast.

The tradition of the Jones family is also evident today; Alfred W. Jones, Sr.'s four children are the principal owners of Sea Island Co. Alfred W. Jones, Jr. is the chairman, while siblings Howard Coffin Jones, Katharine Jones O'Connor, and Marianna Jones Kuntz all serve as directors.

However, Mr. Speaker, the emphasis on family does not stop here, even the employees, guests, and residents of the islands are also considered family. In fact, the staff includes many third-generation employees. Sea Island Co. encourages hiring many members of the same family. Recently, 17 relatives were employed there simultaneously.

With emphasis on family values, and achieving that critical balance between development and conservation, Mr. KINGSTON and I ask that you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues join me in commending the Sea Island Co., which serves as an example for other businesses across the nation.

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: IVY CATHERWOOD

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 1995

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, we are privileged to salute Ivy Catherwood as a Point-of-Light for America. For 34 years of her 80 years, Ms. Catherwood served on the staff of the New York City Police Department. Her story is a story of self-help, sterling citizenship, and great generosity to her community.