

Washington, DC. More troops were sent to Vietnam. On Broadway, Ginger Rogers was starring in "Hello Dolly!," and Art Carney and Walter Matthau were "The Odd Couple." In Montgomery County, MD, the Chevy Chase Library first opened its doors.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Chevy Chase Library on its 30th birthday, and I wish the staff, the volunteers, and the citizens of the Town of Chevy Chase continued success.

GOOD TRANSPORTATION CHOICES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, Americans need good transportation choices. We in Congress need to help empower people to make transportation choices that work for commuters, for businesses, for senior citizens, and young people alike. Toward that end, I want my colleagues to see an article that appeared in the New York Times business section, Sunday, August 20, reflecting the broad base of support for the transportation policies we passed in ISTEA. This article was cowritten by Gerald Bartels, the president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and Jeff Blum, transportation policy director of the consumer group Citizen Action.

MORE HIGHWAYS ALONE WON'T EASE TRAFFIC
(By Gerald L. Bartels and Jeff Blum)

Across America, we are building more highways to relieve traffic congestion in metropolitan areas, but it doesn't work. Our roads are simply too crowded—and building more means intolerable costs and environmental problems, while the congestion reappears in a few short years. As we enter the 21st century, public transportation is the only cost-effective way that growing communities can ensure mobility for their citizens.

The most cost-effective transportation budget is, therefore, one that balances investments in roads, trains, and buses. Four years ago, Congress and President George Bush developed the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act in an attempt to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution by investing in both public transportation and highway construction.

But the budget versions adopted now by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have unwisely abandoned that balanced approach.

For Fiscal Year 1996, Congress has proposed to slash funds for public transportation and Amtrak while substantially increasing highway subsidies. 89% of the proposed House cuts in transportation assistance would come out of public transit and Amtrak, though they constitute 15% of the Federal transportation budget.

Meanwhile, highway subsidies—52% of the transportation budget—would rise by more than a half billion dollars. The Senate plan, while reducing highway funding by 3.7%, cuts mass transit funding by three times as much.

In the Atlanta area, events at the Georgia Dome and Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, as well as next year's Olympics, depend on the transit system, MARTA. And the growing Perimeter Center commercial district on the edge of town will thrive only with the expansion of public transit, as well as carpooling and pedestrian walkways.

America needs efficient buses, subways and intercity trains to keep traffic moving

quickly, to keep our air clean and to get people to their jobs. Americans need efficient transit to encourage compact community development that preserves open space and uses infrastructure wisely so that metropolitan areas can sustain growth for generations to come.

America needs convenient, affordable transit to allow people leaving welfare to get to jobs. America also needs a healthy balance between local needs and federal resources. Congress should, therefore, promote a balanced transportation policy that:

Offers equal Federal matching dollars for public transportation and highways alike; Why skew our building projects toward more highways, if what communities really need is more public transit? Local elected officials should set the priorities and make the allocations of transportation dollars.

Continues to assist local transit systems through the transit operating assistance program: Many communities, especially smaller ones, depend on federal aid to keep buses and subways running. The Mobile, Ala., bus system has shut down in anticipation of unbridgeable cuts in Federal assistance. And as many as 60 other systems may follow suit.

Maintains the strong Federal interest in transit capital and technological-innovation programs: With little room to expand our packed metropolitan-area highways, the nation must expand public transit. Federal help should be available to regions that cannot afford such a major investment—just as large infusions of Federal capital helped build our world-renowned highway system. At the same time, the Government must continue to support the development of innovation like high-speed intercity rail; low-weight, low-pollution buses; up-to-the-minute schedule information accessible from peoples' homes, and technology that allows buses to pass through traffic signals ahead of cars.

Preserves a strong national passenger railroad: In many congested regions, intercity rail is by far the most cost-effective way to travel. Amtrak passenger miles rose 48% between 1982 and 1993. Ridership rose 87% on Northeast Corridor Metroliners, 49% between San Diego and Los Angeles, and 10% between St. Louis and Chicago.

Yes, Congress and the President must be hardheaded when it comes to spending our dollars. But when we reduce the budget, let's give public transportation a fighting chance.

SIKH MILITANTS ASSASSINATE CHIEF MINISTER IN PUNJAB

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I wish to call our colleagues' attention to the latest in the tragic series of events that have plagued the Punjab region of India for more than a decade. On August 31, 1995, Chief Minister Beant Singh, a leading advocate of peace in the Punjab region, was viciously assassinated by Sikh terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for every Member of this House to condemn these violent acts perpetrated by Sikh militant factions. Unfortunately, some of our colleagues have chosen to carry the banner for the Sikh militants in Punjab by working closely with the so-called Council of Khalistan. Perhaps this latest tragic act will be enough to convince those Members that support for groups that promote violence only begets further violence.

Responsible Members of this House must condemn each and every terrorist act perpetrated by these militants. We must also challenge our colleagues who support the Council of Khalistan because it benefits their own domestic political needs to realize that their support for the council is furthering a terrorist agenda in India.

While fighting terrorist, Chief Minister Singh also worked simultaneously to bring the people of Punjab back into the mainstream political democracy upon which the nation of India prides itself.

Mr. Singh was duly elected by the people of Punjab in 1992 and he dedicated his life to maintaining democracy.

Mr. Speaker, as the relationship between our country, the world's oldest democracy, and India, the world's democracy, continues to flourish and expand, let us support unequivocally the advocates of peace in Punjab. And, without fear or hesitation, I would hope that every Member, regardless of political persuasion or ideology, would join me in condemning those enemies of peace who assassinated the Chief Minister and his staff.

HONORING COCOPAH TRIBE CHAIRMAN PETER SOTO

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great remorse that I inform my colleagues on the passing of a friend and a great leader of our native American community: Mr. Peter Soto, chairman of the Cocopah Nation.

Pete, as a young man, received his education in Yuma, AZ. A firm believer that education was the key to success, Pete devoted himself to pursuing a degree, which he attained at Harvard University. After graduating, Pete returned to the Cocopah Nation and served as tribal vice chairman. During his tenure as the vice chairman, Pete worked with the Indian Education Program and the Yuma High School district.

Completing his term as vice chairman, Pete assumed a position with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Education Department. In that capacity, Pete was instrumental in developing and directing educational programs for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Pete was a strong advocate of education and was dedicated to improving the educational opportunities for our native American youth. Through his endeavors many of our young native Americans have received, and continue to receive, an education.

In 1990, Pete returned to his nation to serve as the Cocopah tribal business facilitator. Pete strove to enhance and implement economic development for the Cocopah Nation. During this time he also served his community as vice chairman of the board of commissioners for the housing authority.

On July 8, 1994, Pete was elected as chairman of the Cocopah Nation. Under his leadership, the nation began an extensive program to make education available to all members of his nation. Pete continued his strong advocacy of tribal economic development, and strove to develop business enterprises and to attract business investment to his nation.

I would also like to recognize Pete for his dedicated service in defense of our Nation.

Pete served with the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged.

I share with my friends of the Cocopah Nation a deep personal loss. The Cocopah Tribe has not only lost a great leader, but I have lost a dear friend. I request that my fellow colleagues join me in honoring and remembering this great man: Chairman Peter Soto of the Cocopah Nation.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE JOB CORPS

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify the legislative intent of H.R. 1617 regarding the Job Corps Program.

The committee did not include Job Corps as part of the block grant consolidation proposed in H.R. 1617. After numerous hearings, site visits, and debate, the committee determined that Job Corps is one of the few Federal programs that is most cost-effectively administered at the national level. The committee strongly believes that Job Corps should remain a distinct, national program for the following reasons:

Job Corps is effective. Historically, the young people served by Job Corps are America's poorest and most at-risk. Their needs have not been met by their schools, families, communities, or State governments. Job Corps, through its comprehensive residential education and training components, is extremely effective in dealing with this difficult population. In fact, in program year 1994—July 1994—June 1995—73 percent of all participants were placed into jobs or advanced to higher education.

Job Corps provides universal access. By virtue of being a national program, Job Corps allows equal, universal access to all young people eligible for the program, regardless of their residence. There are no constraints of State boundaries. In fact, a substantial amount—roughly 35 percent of all Job Corps students attend centers not located in their State.

Low administrative costs. As currently operated, Job Corps has minimal bureaucratic overhead. There are 179 Federal staffs that oversee services to almost 65,000 youth annually at 110 centers nationwide. It would make no sense to create 50 separate State bureaucracies to administer approximately 2 Job Corps centers per State.

Job Corps is accountable. Given its size and cost, Job Corps must be accountable to Congress. Today, Job Corps has the most extensive performance standards of any job training program. Job Corps measures student advancement in academics, vocational completion, and job placement rate as well as the starting salary once they leave the Job Corps. This is done for every one of Job Corps' 65,000 students each year. In addition, Job Corps has now instituted student surveys to assess student perceptions of the program and campus safety.

Local input with a national focus. Job Corps is unique from other Federal training programs in its uniformity across the Nation. This has allowed the program to develop a cost-effective

and efficient system to serve both the local and national needs of Job Corps students. Each Job Corps campus is required by law and regulation to develop community linkages, local support groups, and participation. Students are referred to and from other State programs and services. The national network of placement services offered through the international labor unions and the National Association of Home Builders allow Job Corps graduates access to job markets across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, while the goal of H.R. 1617 is to consolidate the vast array of job training and education programs into a more cohesive structure that makes sense to participants, to service providers, to the Congress, and most importantly to the American taxpayer, we did not want to eliminate programs that operate effectively. Job Corps is one program the committee felt was best kept at the national level. As the old adage goes "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

HONORING THE EPIPHANY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Epiphany Byzantine Catholic Church of Annandale, VA, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary on Sunday, September 24, 1995.

The parish was founded in 1970 by a few Slavic people with a vision and love for their Byzantine Rite. Many of the founders were first generation Americans who wanted a place to worship in the traditions of their Slavic ancestors. Since that time the parish has grown and become an integral part of the community and serves over 300 families of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds who live in the Washington metropolitan area.

In 1973, the construction of Epiphany Byzantine Catholic Church was completed and on April 29 was dedicated. Father John Danilak who served as pastor at that time wrote the following to parishioners: "The erection of this beautiful edifice shall ever be a living testimonial of the generations of the unborn, and it will be a memorial to of your ardent faith and an inspiration for your children to manifest the God-given faith and the glorious heritage that you will entrust to them. May the doors of the Epiphany Church be always open to all who seek the soothing balm of Christ's healing graces and that there be charity and love for the helpless, and that Epiphany serve as a reservoir of moral strength for the weak, a sanctuary for the oppressed and comfort and consolation for the aged and forgotten."

Since those words were written in 1973, Epiphany Byzantine Catholic Church has strived to fulfill this commitment. The parish has grown and people of different cultures and backgrounds attend and participate in the religious services. Yet, the goals set in 1973 remain unchanged. Epiphany Byzantine Catholic Church continues to nurture its family in the gospel of Jesus Christ, through the unique genius of the Byzantine Rite.

In 1987, the multipurpose parish center was dedicated and serves as a place for parishioners and the community to meet for educational

and social events. The parish not only continues traditions of the Slavic people but also the ethnic and cultural traditions of their parents and grandparents. Epiphany Parish is truly committed to the Byzantine Catholic Rite and welcomes all who desire to worship with them.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring the Epiphany Byzantine Catholic Church on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ABRAHAM M. PHILLIPS

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise before my colleagues today to pay tribute to Dr. Abraham M. Phillips, a pediatric specialist in juvenile diabetes in the St. Louis community. Dr. Phillips is a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and a commander of the 21st General Hospital in St. Louis.

Dr. Phillips' career is a remarkable story of dedication and service to his community and his country. After being commissioned to service in 1971, he moved quickly through military ranks and was appointed colonel in 1987. He has held various non-active duty hospital assignments in the St. Louis area and was assigned to active duty in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf war. After more than 24 years of service in the military, Dr. Phillips has been decorated with more than 18 medals and awards in recognition of his outstanding military service.

In his role as a civilian physician, Dr. Phillips' service and scope of work to the medical community are equally impressive. He serves as the medical advisor to a local high school football team, is the consulting physician to a diabetic camp for children in Missouri, and recently concluded work for the Nursery and Newborn Clinic Service at Deaconess Hospital in St. Louis. In addition, Dr. Phillips serves on the Pediatric Quality Assurance Committee at John's Mercy Hospital and on the Pre-Natal and Pediatric Care Committee at Deaconess Hospital, both of which are located in St. Louis.

Dr. Phillips' work illustrates the importance of military reservists in our country, and their invaluable contributions to our society. He has unselfishly given his time and talents to our community. His devotion to our community and to our country should be an inspiration to us all.

THE SURFACE MINING CONTROL AND RECLAMATION AMEND- MENTS ACT OF 1995

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 1995

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Amendments Act of 1995. I am joined in this effort by Mr. CREMEANS and several other colleagues all of whom share my interest in reinforcing the