

years in the face of a hostile and persistent Communist threat to our freedom was due in significant part to dedicated service by Naval Academy graduates. Unfortunately, the world is still a dangerous place and our country will continue to call upon the armed services to preserve our freedom. The men and women in the service uniform of their choice will continue to answer the call and will add new chapters to the proud history of the Naval Academy developed over the past 150 years.

SEPA

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to a provision that may be included in the House version of the budget reconciliation package. Specifically, I strongly oppose the auction to the highest bidder of the Southeastern Power Administration [SEPA] and the consideration of the auction of any of the other Power Marketing Administrations [PMA's].

The House Resources Committee, by a 1 vote margin, approved language that would require the Corps of Engineers to auction to the highest bidder contracts to all SEPA generated power plus all land and facilities related to the generation of electricity. This includes generators, dams, locks, reservoirs, and the land surrounding the reservoirs. It is important to note that other than the generated power, those assets are under the jurisdiction of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, not the Resources Committee.

In response, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, of which I am a member, passed language that prohibits the sale of the Corps of Engineer's assets as they relate to SEPA. If the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee language stands, which it should, all that is left of the Resources Committee language is the sale of the generated power. However, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the sale of the power generation alone does not score as a budget savings. If there are no budget savings the argument favoring such a sale, simply does not make sense.

We must defeat all proposals, now and in the future, to auction to the highest bidder any of the PMA's. This proposed auction would assuredly result in higher electric rates for rural and small town consumers.

ANNUAL FUND DINNER FOR THE INDIANA BRANCH OF THE NAACP

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Hammond, IN branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [NAACP]. On Thursday, October 19, 1995, they will hold the Annual Freedom Fund Dinner.

The Hammond NAACP, which has chosen the theme of "Building Family Values," was organized in 1934 by a group of residents that

felt there was a need for an organization that would monitor and defend the rights of African-Americans in Northwest Indiana. The national organization, of which the Hammond branch is a member, focuses on providing better and more positive ways of addressing the important issues facing minorities in social and job-related settings.

The Annual Fund Dinner is a major fund raiser for the Hammond branch of the NAACP. In addition, the dinner serves to update and keep the community aware of the accomplishments of the local and national chapters on an annual basis.

Moreover, awards are presented at the dinner to members who have given of themselves above and beyond the planned agenda or the President's request. Those special individuals who will receive awards are the following: Rocharda Moore Morris, President's Award; The Reverend Albert Johnson, Jule Alexander Award; Officer Pete Torres, Community Service Award; and Anthony Higgs, Program Support Award. Pearlina Jenkins Scholarship Awards, whose joint contributors are the Hammond NAACP and the Northern Indiana Public Service Co., will be presented to Peter Adams, of Hammond High School, and Marquist L. Spencer, of Morton Senior High School. The Master of Ceremonies is Bernard Carter, Lake County Prosecutor, and the Key-note Speaker is Norman Van Lier, former star of the Chicago Bulls. In addition, Norman will receive a special recognition award.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Hammond Branch of the NAACP for commending these outstanding men and women, who have taken the extra step to improve the quality of life for the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

PET TECHNOLOGY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, last month I was invited to the University of Tennessee Hospital where I was given a tour and briefing concerning a new medical technology, Positron Emission Tomography, or PET for short. I should say that this is the latest advance in medical technology for humans and does not apply to pet animals.

PET technology is the latest advance in diagnosing diseases such as breast cancer, colon cancer, lung cancer, brain cancer, heart disease, and epilepsy.

I have introduced H.R. 2194, the Medicare PET Coverage Act of 1995, because it is time that the average American has access to both this technology and the benefits from cost savings that PET scans provide. My bill would expand PET from research into widespread clinical use by permitting Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for PET scan procedures.

Despite the fact that CHAMPUS and private insurers like Blue Cross/Blue Shield already reimburse for this safe, cost effective procedure, Medicare and Medicaid do not.

PET scan technology is a diagnostic procedure that doctors can use without surgery to determine the rate of growth of a tumor and tell if it is malignant or benign. This knowledge saves patients from unnecessary surgery and even eliminates the need for many biopsies.

Over its 20-year history and some 1 million PET scans, the technique has demonstrated the ability to reduce the number, cost, physical pain, and mortality of expensive surgical procedures.

This results not only in improved care, but also reduced health care delivery costs.

For example, in the case of breast cancer, most patients undergo an expensive and painful surgery to evaluate the tumors. This procedure often requires hospitalization and anesthesia and can lead to complications. PET scans allow doctors to screen out the 75 percent of patients who can be treated by partial mastectomy and thereby avoid surgery. Almost 74,000 women per year would be spared the risk and the cost associated with this surgery.

Similarly, lung cancer patients would avoid 10,000 surgeries and 17,000 biopsies each year with the use of PET scans.

With today's rising health care costs, we need to push those technologies which provide cost savings into the mainstream of medical practice.

Data collected from peer review studies shows that PET technology offers the potential to reduce national health care costs by a net of \$5 billion a year. Approximately \$1 billion of these savings would be in Medicare alone.

I would like to commend my colleague, Mr. THOMAS of California, for his efforts to include PET scans in the Medicare Preservation Act we will vote on tomorrow. His language clarifies the scope of coverage and amount of payment under the Medicare program. This would ensure that cutting-edge and cost-saving technologies like PET are reimbursable.

This language is an important step in enabling Americans who rely on Medicare to benefit from innovative new technologies while at the same time generating considerable savings to the Federal Government.

As important for me as the cost savings is the fact that the largest manufacturer of PET scan equipment in the world, CTI, is located in my district in east Tennessee. The technology and personnel that founded the company came from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory just outside of Knoxville, TN.

The savings from PET technology could start today. One million PET scan studies have been performed with no known negative reactions. Patients have avoided unnecessary surgery because of PET. Again, I say we are not talking about animal pets, but a medical breakthrough called Positron Emission Tomography.

The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has not made a decision on reimbursement while the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] drags its feet in making a decision on whether and how to regulate PET—something that States have already been doing.

For over 7 years, the developers of PET scans have complied with HCFA and FDA procedures and requests only to have the rules changed and inquiries about progress met with minimal response.

While there has been some recent movement on the part of the FDA, the fact remains that we have no consistent regulatory plan that applies industry-wide to all uses of PET.

Mr. THOMAS' language will help move PET, and other technologies like it, out of this needless bureaucratic standstill.

Under this language, HCFA can no longer prevent Americans who rely on Medicare from

the benefits of PET scan technology. It will no longer be able to keep the Federal Government from realizing the savings that PET scans can generate.

A hallmark of our health care system is the ability to constantly improve patient treatment by introducing new technology. Better technology often means a more intelligent approach to the diagnosis and treatment of illness. This often translates into better care at a lower cost.

To the person who can avoid surgery, the access to PET is an immediate health concern. For the taxpayer or individual insurance consumer, reimbursement can help relieve the burden of rising costs. Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement of PET technology provides access to a medical benefit that Americans should not be denied 1 more day.

Mr. Speaker, PET scans can save lives, discovering things that other types of medical scanning miss.

It will not be long before people will be demanding this technology. We should not deny its benefits to our senior citizens because of bureaucratic delays or unfair medical rules.

TRIBUTE TO BYRON McKELVIE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Byron McKelvie of Cortez, CO, who recently retired after more than 30 years in the news business. As an acknowledgement of the many years of service Mr. McKelvie gave as an objective reporter and editor of the Cortez Sentinel and Montezuma Journal, those papers recently printed a wonderfully written farewell. I would like to insert that editorial into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. McKelvie's devotion to his work, his community, and our country.

[From the Cortez Sentinel, Sept. 9, 1995]

There's an old joke about a little boy whose parents were very concerned that he could not talk. He seemed to function quite well in every other way, and the years went by until, lo and behold, one night at the supper table an amazing thing occurred. "This roast beef is burnt," he said, quite clearly. His parents and siblings were amazed. "Jimmy," they said, "you can talk! Why have you never said anything before?" "You never burned the roast beef before," he said.

That's the way the newspaper business works; until we publish something disagreeable, every one of our thousands of readers remain silent. Much of an editor's time is spent fielding complaints about not printing enough information, printing too much information, printing information too soon or too late, and occasionally but not nearly as often as one might think, printing incorrect information. Newspaper work is thankless, but the time has come to say thanks to a man who has spent much of his life contributing to the public exchange of information.

Byron McKelvie retired this week, after 36 years in the news business, most of them at Cortez Newspapers. First as a reporter and columnist and then as editor, he has been responsible for shining a clear light on issues of great importance to Montezuma County. While covering topics too numerous to list, his primary area of expertise has been water

issues. He reported the development of the Dolores project from the early 1960s until its fruition, and he accomplished the delicate balancing act required of an objective reporter who was also an ardent supporter.

Writers are often remembered for the subjects about which they've written, but the true story of a newspaper man's career is the story of line after line of copy, year after year of deadlines, meeting after meeting to attend, newspaper after newspaper after newspaper to put out.

That's why the profession is called journalism, because a newspaper done well is a journal of life in its community. A newspaper is not a collection of stories, but thousands of chapters in a single story. For 8 years as this newspaper's editor, "Mac" has been responsible for telling that story. His accuracy, fairness, persistence and dedication are appreciated by his readers and by those of us who follow in his footsteps.

Thanks, Mac. Cortez and Montezuma County will miss you, and so will the Sentinel and the Journal, and myself.

STATEMENT ON MEDICARE BY CLAIRDA POTTS

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, Clairda Potts is a constituent of mine who came to Washington to make a statement regarding her concerns about the proposed drastic changes in the Medicare system that the House is considering today. I am a Member of Congress for the sole purpose of representing Clairda Potts and all of my constituents who would not have a voice before this body. Therefore, I am including here for printing Ms. Potts concerns in her own words. I believe her statement really says it all.

My name is Clairda Potts and I am from Louisville, KY.

I have worked since I was 9 years old and for much of that time I paid into Medicare and Social Security.

When Social Security and first developed, Congress made a commitment to the American people—if we paid in to Social Security, we would be free from financial worry in our senior years.

I am appalled that here in our great country, there are actually senior citizens who go to bed hungry or without their medication.

Now, we have a new contract with America, to give tax cuts to the rich and solvent.

I ask that Congress keep its first contract with America before it starts manufacturing new ones.

I ask you honorable Members of Congress, please do not take from the vulnerable and needy in order to satisfy the wants of the greedy.

TRIBUTE TO MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Missouri National Guard in recognition of their great feat of transporting tons of military equipment from the Port of Balboa on the Pacific side of the Panama Canal to Jefferson City, MO. The following is the fact sheet for the project:

SEAGOING BARGES MOVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE PORT OF BALBOA, PANAMA

Late 1994.—The Missouri National Guard, in cooperation with the 102nd Army Reserve Command, ships over 340 pieces of military equipment to Panama for a Jan.-May 1995 exercise that was part of the ongoing nation building program in the US Southern Command theater. The equipment ranged from giant earthscrappers to light trucks, collected at Fort Leonard Wood and Camp Crowder, MO and loaded onto railcars and shipped to Beaumont, TX. It was unloaded there and then loaded onto a ship for the trip to Panama. Four high dollar items, UH-1 "Huey" helicopters, were flown by C-5 "Galaxy" from Whiteman AFB to avoid potential rail movement and transloading damage.

February, 1995.—Changes at Fort Leonard Wood made it impossible to plan on the fort as a return site. Regardless, the gear had to eventually come to National Guard headquarters along the Missouri River in central Missouri for maintenance after five months in Panama, and there is no rail yard there. Guard officials begin discussing barge movement with military transportation and sea-lift planners. The idea of shipment by seagoing barge became a plan and a contract was let.

June, 1995.—At the port of Balboa on the Pacific side of Panama two 400 by 100 foot barges are loaded with all equipment, including the helicopters (protected by plastic shrink wrap), towed through the canal and up to the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans, then pushed up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and in mid-July unloaded at a temporary wharf less than half mile from the Guard's maintenance shops. The helicopters are unwrapped and flown straight from the barge deck two miles to their maintenance facility.

The Results.—With four handlings en route to Panama, there was damage to numerous items of equipment, including significant damage to vehicle windshields. With the equipment handled only twice on the return (by its "owners" both times) damage was almost zero. Personnel injury risk exposure was cut in half, and the offload was completed in the Missouri River bottoms with daytime highs in the mid to upper 90s without a single injury or heat casualty among the soldiers.

The move demonstrated the ability of an inland location to serve as a power projection platform for direct overseas movement or receipt of equipment in situations where seagoing barges can be used effectively as a means of filling shortfalls in current lift capability. The move avoided the costs associated with intermediate transloading operations, including avoiding personnel injury risk exposures and potentially significant equipment damage.

TRIBUTE TO AUTUMN KEYES-ITA

HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 1995

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen of the great State of Nevada. Autumn Keyes-Ita has been active in Republican and civic duties for the past 30 years. She has put many hours