

join my colleagues in welcoming to this Chamber the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, Shimon Peres. Mr. Peres journeyed to the United States to help us pay homage to our friend, the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and to demonstrate the unity that exists between our two nations. As he addresses this joint session of Congress, we express our appreciation to Prime Minister Peres for his willingness to make this important journey on behalf of the people and State of Israel.

The voice of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has been silenced. Hatred took from our midst a strong leader who believed that the time had come to seek peace in the Middle East. Yet, we gather today with a renewed sense of commitment to pursue peace in that region. It is, indeed, the highest tribute we can pay to Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Speaker, the man who addresses us as the new Prime Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres, has served his nation with distinction and honor. He brings to the post a record of distinguished service in office, and the highest level of commitment and integrity. Prime Minister Peres is a strong leader to whom we pledge our full support.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of our Nation's longstanding and close relationship with the people of Israel. Our historic and mutually beneficial relationship is a testament to international cooperation. Indeed, it exists as a model for all peace-loving nations of the world. During this period of mourning for the slain hero, Yitzhak Rabin, we remain committed to that relationship.

In the United States, we applaud President Clinton for his continued leadership in the quest for peace in the Middle East. He has demonstrated America's strong support for this effort, and he stands beside his brother, Shimon Peres, offering a strong arm of support. The leadership of these two individuals and their courage in the pursuit of peace should be encouraged by all Americans and Israelis.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of the 11th Congressional District, I take pride in welcoming Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to Washington. As he comes before us, we take this opportunity to again convey our condolences during this time of mourning for Yitzhak Rabin. We hope that Prime Minister Peres will carry back to the people of his nation our words of comfort and support. Our support is extended in the spirit of brotherhood and unity.

#### BREATHITT COUNTY STATE CHAMPS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 12, 1995*

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, last week, many high schools around the Nation won high school State football championships. But, none were more exciting than Breathitt County, KY's 42-35, 2OT victory over Franklin-Simpson in the Kentucky 2A State football championship.

The Bobcats, whose program is one of the strongest in the State, won their first State championship ever while fishing the first undefeated season—15-0—in the school's long history.

And they won it in thrilling, heart-quickenning style.

Trailing by as many as 14 points, the determined Bobcats, led by quarterback Waylon Chapman, stormed back several times, climaxed by a 90-yard drive which tied the score in the game's final minutes.

After matching scores in the first overtime, the Bobcats faced a fourth down play from the 16 yard line. After a scramble, Chapman's pass fell into the hands of a sliding Phillip Watts in the corner of the end zone.

After a short gasp, the covering official signaled touchdown sending the Bobcats and their faithful into a frenzy.

But, it wasn't over. Franklin-Simpson had one more chance to win.

After two plays, the stiff Bobcat defense forced a fumble and recovered it to clinch the victory. and, then the real celebrating began.

Stunned and emotionally drained, Coach Mike Holcomb captured his team's thoughts best. "It's a great feeling for this community," he said. "They poured their hearts out for this team."

Yes, it is wonderful for this great community, but it is even a bigger accomplishment for the fine young athletes at Breathitt County High School. They never quit. Their determination, commitment and perseverance is something everyone in this country can respect with pride.

Coach Vince Lombardi, in his immortal speech, "What It Takes To Be Number One," said, "I firmly believe that man's finest hour—his greatest fulfillment—is that moment when he was worked his heart out and he's exhausted on the field of battle—Victorious."

The Bobcats have been to the top of the mountain, and as ABC's Keith Jackson would say, "Oh Nellie," are we proud.

#### GIANT HEALTH NET H.M.O. SUES COMPANY THAT GIVES IT A BAD RATING

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 12, 1995*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the movement to managed care is sweeping the country, and it is vital that patients know whether the HMO's and other organizations they are being asked to join provide quality care or are financially sound.

A bad sign for consumers is the lawsuit of giant Health Net HMO against the tiny rating firm of Weiss Ratings, Inc. Health Net claims that Weiss' analysis of Health Net's very shakey financial status—a "D—" rating—was harmful to the HMO.

Mr. Speaker, the law suit smacks of intimidation. The financial data was very clear. At the time of the rating, Health Net was in bad shape. Weiss has an excellent reputation for spotting companies in trouble. Customers and investors have a right to know. If lawsuits like this succeed in silencing the analysts and critics, there will be no competitive marketplace because the consumer will have no hope of making an informed decision. Ignorant customers don't make good customers—and Health Net's lawsuit is an effort to keep the public ignorant. The problem is, ignorance in picking a health plan can cause customer bankruptcy or even death.

Enclosed is a portion of the New York Times article of November 24, 1995, that describes the kind of anticonsumer lawsuit that Health Net is pursuing.

[From the New York Times, Nov. 24, 1995]

#### RATING AGENCIES FACING LAWSUITS FOR LOW GRADES

(By Michael Quint)

Rating agencies that grade the financial strength of companies and local governments are accustomed to lawsuits by investors who say that the ratings failed to alert them to serious problems. But the agencies are not used to being sued by the entities they rate.

Now that is changing, as agencies ranging from the giant Moody's Investors Service in New York, a unit of the Dun & Bradstreet Corporation, to tiny Weiss Group, of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., are learning that they are vulnerable to suits from companies or governments who say that their ratings were so low as to be libelous.

Rating agencies defend their right to publish opinions as a matter of freedom of the press, regardless of whether they were hired to issue the rating.

But in two current disputes, one by the second-largest health maintenance organization in California and the other by the largest school district in Colorado, rating agencies that issued unsolicited ratings were accused of using their reports to drum up business.

Unsolicited ratings can become an issue when companies and local governments that paid to be rated wanted to choose the agencies that they thought would give them the best ratings, testifying to their strength. If an unsolicited rating was much different from what the company thought it deserved, sparks could fly.

Malik Hasan, a doctor and chairman of Health Net, a California health maintenance organization, said a D— rating by Weiss "made us into their poster boy." Mr. Hasan said that Weiss used the rating to attract attention and sell more of the agency's reports. Late last year, after Weiss gave Health Net the lowest rating of any of the country's 13 largest H.M.O.'s, Health Net filed suit in Federal court in Los Angeles accusing Weiss of interfering with its business, and of defamation, slander and libel.

Martin Weiss, chairman of the rating agency, said he had spent more than \$350,000 of his own money defending the agency against the lawsuit and was in no mood to back down. "I am fighting to the bitter end, because if I cave in now, the word would get around that the way to get a better rating or to shut up Weiss is to sue him," he said.

Although Mr. Weiss has sold only 21 reports about Health Net, he hopes that H.M.O. ratings will raise his company's revenues above the \$764,000 total for 1994. The financial ratings of H.M.O.'s were important, he said, because the groups were growing and "a group that is under financial pressure could be more likely to cut corners on medical care."

Concern about his reputation led Mr. Weiss to reject a compromise settlement proposal a week ago, because it would not have made clear that Mr. Weiss did not pay any damages to Health Net, nor would he have been able to talk publicly about the case.

Dr. Hasan of Health Net said he was pushing the suit because the criteria for Weiss ratings remained secret and put too much emphasis on measures of financial strength that did not accurately reflect the ability of his company to pay the medical costs of its 1.4 million customers in California.

Mr. Weiss defended his rating formula, saying it was similar to one being developed by state insurance commissioners for H.M.O.'s.

He said that his standards did not condemn the entire industry. Nearly half the 385 H.M.O.'s he now rates are in the A or B categories, with another 32 percent in the C rating group.

# THE BALANCED BUDGET ACT

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 12, 1995*

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the Balanced Budget Act of 1995 could be the best holiday gift that we ever give our children and grandchildren. This legislation could be the first step in paying off the ever-mounting debts we have accumulated for future generations. And this legislation could be the catalyst for new and better paying jobs for America's workers and for students who will be entering the job market.

But this legislation can be none of these things until the President joins us in our commitment to a true balanced budget.

The Nation's job-creating businesses are alarmed that the President has not joined the Congress in bringing fiscal discipline to the Federal establishment. Last week, Dr. Richard Leshner, President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, wrote to President Clinton to express his views on the veto of the Balanced Budget Act.

I believe that Dr. Leshner has raised important points in his letter to the President, and I would like to share it with my colleagues. Dr. Leshner's letter follows:

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
*Washington, DC, December 6, 1995.*

The PRESIDENT,  
*The White House,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the world's largest business federation, representing 215,000 businesses, 3,000 state and local chambers of commerce, 1,200 trade and professional associations, and 75 American Chambers of Commerce abroad, I am writing to express our extreme disappointment over your vetoing H.R. 2491, the "Balanced Budget Act of 1995."

This historic legislation was the culmination of Herculean efforts by Members of Congress and the American people to bring about real fiscal discipline at the Federal level. It reflected a delicate balance between streamlining the Federal government, providing economic stimulus through tax relief to America's families and businesses, and ensuring that necessary government services remain strong and directed to America's truly needy.

Large and small businesses alike embraced H.R. 2491 as a means of improving the nation's economic climate and job creation. Eliminating our nation's annual deficits will lead to lower interest rates, increased savings and investment, greater productivity, additional and better paying jobs, and an overall higher standard of living for all citizens. Further, tax relief for America's families and businesses will increase capital investment, preserve family-owned businesses, and modernize outdated tax laws while making the goal of a balanced budget more attainable.

From national polls, to town hall meetings, to telephone calls and letters, the American people clearly believe the tax and spend approach of big government is unac-

ceptable. We agree. If H.R. 2491 is not the answer, it is incumbent on you and your Administration to put forth specific proposals which respond to the call for a seven year balanced budget plan.

The impending fiscal crisis threatens every level and aspect of our lives: from our competitive stance, to our standard of living, to those critical services for the needy, nothing escapes its clutches. This moral imperative is too critical to be responded to by political rhetoric and no solutions. All of us must rise above politics, exercising true leadership by coming to a timely agreement.

That is what we expect of you and our congressional leaders. The time is now for you to provide the leadership to finally achieve an agreement to balance the budget for America's future.

Sincerely,

RICHARD L. LESHER.

# TRIBUTE TO COL. WILLIAM J. DALECKY, USAF

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 12, 1995*

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, a friend of the Congress and a long time leader in this Nation's Air Force fighter aircraft weapons systems, Col. William J. Dalecky, is retiring from the U.S. Air Force on 1 January 1996. His most recent position has been as the Chief, Weapons Systems Liaison Division, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, DC. In this position he has been responsible to the Secretary of the Air Force for legislative liaison for authorization of all Air Force weapon systems budget requests.

Colonel Dalecky has had a distinguished career of nearly 26 years of military service. After being commissioned through the U.S. Air Force Academy in June 1969 and graduating 11th in his class, he attended graduate school at the Anderson School of Management, UCLA and was awarded an MBA degree. He then entered undergraduate pilot training at Webb AFB, TX, graduating with distinction in 1971. Colonel Dalecky's first operational assignment was as an F-4D aircraft commander with the Triple Nickel—555 Tactical Fighter Squadron—Udorn, Royal Thailand AFB. During his tour in Southeast Asia, Colonel Dalecky flew extensively over North Viet Nam, logging 200 combat missions.

His next two decades of service continued to contribute directly to the aerospace defense of our Nation. After his tour at Udorn, Colonel Dalecky served as an F-4 instructor pilot at Luke AFB, as an F-4D Squadron flight commander at Spangdahlem AB, then as a T-41 instructor pilot at the U.S. Air Force Academy, instructing cadets in basic flying skills in preparation for pilot training, and finally, as an A-10 aircraft commander at England AFB. His final operational assignment was as deputy commander for operations and later commander, 52 Operations Group, Spangdahlem AB. During this assignment, he deployed two of three assigned Wild Weasel squadrons to combat against Iraq, with no losses due to enemy activity.

Colonel Dalecky attended the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth, KS and the Naval War College, Newport, RI.

Colonel Dalecky also holds an MS degree in International Relations from Troy State University, a masters degree in Military Art and Science from U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and an MS degree in National Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. Colonel Dalecky has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, and the Legion of Merit.

Colonel Dalecky is married to the former Elisabeth Houle. They have three daughters, Natalie, Selene, and Amanda.

Colonel Dalecky plans to continue his work in fighter aircraft programs in a civilian capacity in the Washington area. On behalf of my colleagues and the congressional staff who have known and worked with Colonel Dalecky, we wish him and his wife Betty the very best in their future endeavors.

# TRIBUTE TO REV. SAMUEL G. SIMPSON

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 12, 1995*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rev. Samuel G. Simpson who was honored by friends and members of the Bronx Baptist Church on Sunday, November 12, for his 31 years of service in this ministry in my South Bronx congressional district.

Reverend Simpson has faithfully led the congregation since the beginnings of the church, when it started as a mission of the First Baptist Church, in Brooklyn. That same year the congregation moved their meeting place at 2024 Honeywell Avenue, in the Bronx. The number of worshippers continue to grow and a larger location was secured, in 1970, at 331 East 187th Street.

Born in Jamaica, Mr. Simpson attended West Indies College. Soon afterward, he moved to New Jersey and obtained a bachelor's degree from Northeastern Bible College. He also holds an M.P.S. from the New York Theological Seminary, a D.D. from Asia Bible College, and a D.D. from Martha's Vineyard Theological Seminary.

Always anxious to learn, Reverend Simpson broadened his education by completing courses at New York University, New York Institute of Photography, and at Oxford University.

Besides his passion for learning, Reverend Simpson has been an active member in the community. He holds numerous memberships and has presided over many religious organizations. Among these Reverend Simpson was the president of the Baptist Convention of New York, the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association Pastor's Conference, and of the Bronx Division of the Council of Churches. He continues to preside over the Clergy Coalition of the 47th Precinct and is the chairman of the board of the Bronx Baptist Day Care and Learning Center.

Reverend Simpson's commitment to spread the gospel and to help the members of the community has been recognized by many organizations. The Bronx Council of churches honored him with the "Man of the Year" award. He was also recognized in "Who is Who, Among Black Americans," and received