

compels the United States to remain committed and engaged in ensuring the fulfillment of the ideals of Hungary's Revolution and War of Independence which started on March 15, 1848 under the new international political environment as their ideals, a democratic and free Hungary and a Europe which is free, united and at peace, are also shared by us all.

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 1995

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, last night I experienced a sudden illness and was unable to cast my vote against the Crane amendment to rescind funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. I wish to inform this body that I have long supported Federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and will continue to do so in the future.

SMALLER, MORE EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, Americans voted last November to get big government out of their lives and off of their backs. Republicans know this and are committed to heeding the people's mandate for a smaller, more efficient, less costly government. Our House Republican rescission package represents a crucial first step toward achieving this goal.

The taxpayers want an economically sound government that lives within its means. The American family exercises fiscal responsibility and accountability. The Federal Government should do the same.

The American people work hard for the tax dollars they have to send to Washington. The least we can do is spend those dollars wisely. These bills take a first step in that direction. They aim the cutting knife at programs that do not work, and consolidates duplicative government functions.

Furthermore, our rescission bills trim funding for programs that received large increases in fiscal year 1995, cuts unspent funds that were piling up from one year to the next and eliminates funding for unauthorized programs.

Mr. Speaker, the \$17.3 billion worth of specific cutbacks in our rescission bills, H.R. 1158 and H.R. 1159, put this Nation back on the path toward fiscal responsibility. These bills reassure Americans that their dollars will go to the programs they need most while eliminating useless ones.

TRIBUTE TO FRED J. MISHOW

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 1995

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise before my colleagues today to pay tribute to Fred J. Mishow on his 75th birthday.

Fred fled his native Germany to escape Nazi tyranny in 1937. He began a distinguished career in the military during the years 1942-46, which earned him three Battle Stars and the Philippine Presidential Citation. Fred's tour in the South Pacific theater of war instilled in him the qualities of leadership that have served him well in civilian life.

Fred has been active in democratic politics on the city, county, and State levels. He served as precinct captain in Hadley Township for 35 years. He also served as Sergeant-at-Arms at the 1968, 1972, and 1992 Missouri State democratic conventions. In addition to these achievements, Fred earned the Thomas F. Eagleton Grass Roots Man of the Year Award in 1990.

Fred has unselfishly given his time and talents to our community. In addition to his political activities he has worked hard in various religious and civic organizations. I am proud to call Fred Mishow my friend, and I commend the service he has given to the St. Louis area, the State of Missouri, and the United States of America.

DELAURO HONORS WILLIAM T. O'BRIEN

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 1995

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, March 17, 1995, the Branford Elks, Lodge 1939 will honor William "Bill" O'Brien as Irishman of the Year. Bill's commitment to voluntarism and the people of his community have had a tremendous impact on Greater New Haven. I am pleased to pay tribute to this extraordinary man.

Bill O'Brien truly symbolizes the spirit of Connecticut's Irish-Americans. Devoted to his community, profession, and family, Bill has always given freely of this time and talents. For decades, he has been a great source of strength and inspiration.

Many local organizations have benefited from Bill's leadership and talent for putting ideas into action. From his work as President of the Walter Camp Foundation to his service for the United Fund Campaign, Bill O'Brien is making a real difference for people. In particular, as past president and chairman of the Branford Festival, Bill helped to make this annual event a tremendous success, bringing together many families and friends while building the festival's financial prosperity.

A devoted family man and successful banker, Bill O'Brien has earned the respect and friendship of an entire community. I know that this wife, Maureen, and two sons, Michael and Gregory, take great pride in Bill's remarkable accomplishments. I am delighted that the Branford Elks are recognizing his outstanding achievements and I congratulate Bill on this well-deserved honor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 1995

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 16, 1995, I was unavoid-

ably detained at the White House and not on the floor to be recorded on rollcall votes 242, 245, and 246 during consideration of H.R. 1158, the Omnibus Rescissions and Disaster Supplemental Appropriations bill. Had I been on the floor, I would have voted no on all three votes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 1995

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fightin' Phoenix, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay men's basketball team. The Fightin' Phoenix were invited for the third time in 5 years to compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association men's basketball tournament. As such, their team has been recognized as one of the elite basketball programs in the Nation.

Just as remarkable, after posting a 22-7 season, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay won the Midwest Collegiate league championship this year. Led by their exceptional coach, Dick Bennett, and star forward Jeff Nordgaard, the Fightin' Phoenix posted another great season for all their fans in north-east Wisconsin.

As the team's strongest supporter in the Nation's capital, I want to wish the best of luck to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay as they begin their quest for greater basketball glory. I know all of northeast Wisconsin joins me in congratulating the Fightin' Phoenix for their stellar season and wishing them all the best in the NCAA tournament.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 1995

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to explain my absence from the House on Monday, March 5, and Tuesday, March 14, 1995.

As I have stated previously, my wife and I are faced with a trying family medical situation which has required my presence at home in Los Angeles as often as possible and, unfortunately, at times when the House is in session. We are expecting our second child this May, and under doctor's orders, my wife has been limited to bed rest until she has completed her pregnancy.

Regrettably, I missed a number of recorded floor votes on March 5 and 14. For the record, I would like to indicate my position on each vote:

Goodlatte amendment to H.R. 988, the Attorney Accountability Act (rollcall 200)—“No.”

Berman amendment to McHale amendment to H.R. 988 (rollcall 201)—“Aye.”

McHale amendment to H.R. 988 (rollcall 202)—“No.”

Hoke amendment to H.R. 988 (rollcall 203)—“No.”

On final passage of H.R. 531, Great Western Scenic Trail Designation (rollcall 230)—“Aye.”

On final passage of H.R. 694, Minor Boundary Adjustments and Miscellaneous Park Amendments Act (rollcall 231)—“Aye.”

On final passage of H.R. 562, Walnut Canyon National Monument Modification Act (rollcall 232)—“Aye.”

On final passage of H.R. 536, Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area Vehicle Operation Fees (rollcall 233)—“Aye.”

On final passage of H.R. 517, Chacoan Outliers Protection Act (rollcall 234)—“Aye.”

KEEP THE SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 1995

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today the House approved over \$17 billion dollars in rescissions, the largest package that has ever come to the floor which unfairly targets senior citizens, low-income families and our children. Many of my colleagues have risen today to argue against the bill and the arbitrary, across-the-board cuts it makes to some of our most vital programs. I would like to draw our attention specifically to the Labor Department's Summer Youth Program, because under the package, Summer Youth would be totally eliminated. Mr. Speaker, many of us on both sides of the aisle would have fought against the rescission affecting our Nation's youth, but we never had the chance during consideration of amendments. Make no mistake—enactment of H.R. 1158 would mean the elimination of summer jobs for over 500,000 youths and fewer job opportunities in the future as our children enter the job market.

Many mayors and local officials throughout the country have voiced their strong support for maintaining the Summer Youth Program. Mayor William Johnson of Rochester, New York, the heart of my Congressional district, offered an eloquent defense of the Summer Youth Program in a recent testimony before the Economic and Educational Subcommittee on Post-Secondary Education, Training and Life-Long Learning. At this point, I would like to insert Mayor Johnson's statement into the RECORD. I invite my colleagues to read it carefully to see what a wise investment we once made for young Americans across the country.

STATEMENT OF MAYOR WILLIAM A. JOHNSON, JR., MAYOR, CITY OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Chairman McKeon and other members of the subcommittee, on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and my counterparts from hundreds of cities across the country, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to testify at these subcommittee hearings on youth training programs.

This is a subject that I feel especially competent to address, given my long years of professional involvement in this area. Before being elected Mayor of Rochester, I spent 21 years as the CEO of a large human services organization that provided job training programs to youths and adults.

I understand that the primary purpose of the hearings is to review which programs are most effective and determine whether these programs can and should be consolidated.

If you will permit me, I will address the latter question first. I fully support the consolidation of the various grant programs, to reduce the administrative costs of local governments and to provide them with the flexibility to design local programs based not upon what type of funds are available from Washington but upon what types of needs exist in the community.

As a group, the Conference of Mayors also supports consolidation. Indeed, for the past three years, it has formally adopted a policy statement endorsing it.

However, if consolidation takes the form of block grants to states, to permit the benefits of efficiency and flexibility to be achieved, there must be some mechanism to ensure that the funds are directed towards local governments. There must be a mandate within the legislation for the funds to be passed through the states to municipalities, the actual providers of training services.

Municipalities have convincingly demonstrated their ability to prudently utilize block grants. The success of the Community Development Block Grant program, with its extensive level of citizen participation, and the Job Training Partnership Act program with its committees of business, labor and educational representatives, illustrate the responsiveness of municipalities to community needs.

The future form of the grant programs should not be the foremost concern, though. The continue existence of these programs should be our primary objective.

In a period in which Americans are confronted with increasing economic competition from other nations, it would seem shortsighted to reduce, through major decreases in job training programs, the ability of American workers to successfully meet this competition. In a period in which Americans are being asked to become less dependent on government, it would seem counterproductive to reduce their ability to become independent.

To be effective an efficient job training must begin at an early age. Youth must be exposed to the opportunities, expectations and realities of the job marketplace.

For most youth, their initial training and experience begins with summer jobs. While, at one time, businesses may have been able to provide an adequate number of such jobs, in more recent times, the private sector has been unable to meet the increasing demand and need.

This is most particularly due to the restructuring and transformation that many businesses have experienced in the past decade. Job opportunities that many private sector employees reserved for youth during after-school and summer periods have been “downsized” out of existence.

For example, in Rochester, over the last four years nearly 4,000 youths had to rely upon the summer jobs provided through federally funded programs, as each summer the number of non-federal jobs dramatically declined. This year, an additional 900 youth are—hopefully—expected to participate in such programs.

I say hopefully, because I urge you and the other members of the House to reject the the

appropriation rescision for the summer youth program that was recently approved by the Appropriations Subcommittee. Nationwide, this rescision would result in the elimination of summer job opportunities for 615,000 youth, a move that was totally unexpected.

As Seattle Mayor Norm Rice recently said, “these cuts are reversals of commitments the federal government has already made to communities across the country. It is difficult enough to adapt to future cuts, and absolutely devastating to absorb retroactive ones.”

The reduction would mean that 615,000 youth will be not be given a chance to contribute constructively to their communities this summer. The reduction would mean that 615,000 youth will be less prepared to successfully enter the job market in the future.

For New York State youth, the proposed reduction in federal funding comes at a particularly inopportune time. Governor George Pataki has proposed a similar reduction in state funding for youth training programs.

The need to maintain government funding for summer jobs is readily recognized by the private sector, which realizes that the need for such jobs continues to exist and that businesses, by themselves, will continue to be unable to adequately address this need. Both the Greater Rochester Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Management Council, as association of large manufacturing and serve companies, have expressed their serious concern over the proposed elimination of federal funding.

They realistically know that the private sector will be unable to fill the “job gap” that would ensue if funding is not maintained. They realistically know that there will be a “tax switch” if this gap has to be filled through funding by local governments. In cities across this country, our financial base—largely derived from the property tax—will not support the level of demand that is being pushed down upon us by federal, state and county governments.

It is imperative that the summer youth job program be preserved. At the annual convention of the Conference of Mayors in Portland, Oregon last year, the program received overwhelming support.

The assumption was that funding for the program would be maintained at least at the current level of appropriations. The hope was that funding would be increased.

Because of the obvious need for the program and because of its demonstrated effectiveness, no one expected that there soon would be a proposal to totally eliminate funding for the program. Certainly, I personally did not anticipate the need to testify today before you to oppose such elimination.

All Americans understand the need to reduce the federal budget deficit. They understand the need to limit the burden that we impose upon future generations.

They support your efforts to reduce the deficit, to eliminate waste and inefficiencies and to eradicate fraud. These goals can be achieved in my opinion, without crippling or destroying programs that lead to skills training and self-sufficiency.

However, the concern over the future of our youth must be balanced by a concern over this present needs. Unless we address these needs today, unless we prepare youth for meaningful employment tomorrow in an increasingly demanding marketplace, our youth will have no future at all. And with a poorly trained workforce—and an increasing underclass population—our country will have no future at all.