

that they would not want to see that occur. That should be separate from the crisis that we face today because the appropriation bills have not been passed.

But the commitment has been made on the floor of this House. We will be here Friday, Saturday, Sunday, because the Members of this House, those of us who have voted against this charade, want to make sure that, one, we put people to work for the American people. That is the key. As this letter said, grow up, I say, act like responsible adults we have all mistaken you to be. Doing the right thing can be summed up in one simple word, compromise.

To that constituent, we have willing on the House floor and in committee to compromise. We were willing to vote for a clean streamlined continuing resolution and to lift the debt ceiling so that we can confront the issues of budgeting and balancing that budget in a fair and bipartisan manner.

□ 1930

To my Republican colleagues the real question is:

Are you prepared to do that, to answer the American people, and be able to handle this in a manner that serves us well as we move into the 21st century?

I will be here to work; will my colleagues be here to work?

Mr. Speaker, I must rise today to express my profound disagreement with the legislative process surrounding two bills: The consideration of the continuing resolution to provide temporary funding to keep the Government functioning; legislation to extend the debt ceiling in order for the Federal Government to meet its debt obligations.

Our Federal Government is in crisis today because the House leadership focused all of its energy during the first hundred days on a Contract With America instead of making sure that the appropriations bills for fiscal year 1996 were on schedule to be considered and signed by the President before October 1, 1995, and avoid disrupting the Government, Federal employees and the American people.

At this time, only three appropriations bills have been signed into law. Those bills are Agriculture appropriations, Energy appropriations, and military construction appropriations. I voted in favor of those three appropriations bills. The President vetoed the legislative branch appropriations bill because he thought it was improper for Congress to fund its own operations before making sure that executive agencies were funded. The House and Senate passed another legislative branch appropriations bill and that bill and the Transportation appropriations bill are waiting to be cleared and sent to the White House. I also supported the latest version of the legislative branch appropriations bill, the Transportation appropriations bill and the Foreign Operations bill.

I am concerned about the process on these two bills because the Congress traditionally has passed continuing funding resolutions and debt ceiling extension legislation without adding extraneous provisions unrelated to the purpose of the bills. Some of the extraneous matter that was added to these bills included an

increase in the Medicare Part B premium, a restriction on political advocacy by certain non-profit groups, provisions relating to regulatory reform.

In addition, the resolution would reduce funding levels for certain programs such as the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, the Goals 2000 school reform programs, the AmeriCorps Program, and the Community Development Financial Institutions Program to 60 percent of the fiscal year 1995 allocation.

With respect to the debt ceiling legislation, the House leadership inserted provisions that would prevent the President from having the flexibility to manage various Government funds to enable the Government to meet its debt obligations. The results under the pretense of saving Social Security, this effort would gut Medicare. I want to save both programs. This has also caused our Government to lose credibility in international capital markets.

In addition, the majority Members of this House propose legislation today that would endanger the Social Security trust funds. I opposed this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can produce a clean continuing resolution and a clean debt ceiling bill. It is the right thing to do.

87 VERSUS 83

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, before I joined this body, I had been an engineer all my life, practicing engineering. Engineers are good at dealing with the facts and numbers because numbers do not lie. What I like to do tonight is not attack anybody, just present facts, exactly what is happening, why the Government has to be shut down, and I leave up to your judgment. I wish the people in California listen to me carefully tonight.

There are two problems. One is so-called Medicare part B premium. It is cutting too deep; in other words, raising Medicare part B premium to subsidize tax credit to rich people. That is the whole idea. I am going to talk about that, break it into two parts. Let me explain to you what is exactly happening in Medicare part B.

The Medicare plan has a part A and part B, two sections. Part A is to pay for all the hospital costs. It is financed by payroll taxes, 1.45 percent by employee, and employer match. Then money will be deposited into hospital trust fund. Then money will be spent for all the hospital costs. That is an issue for some reason.

Part B is an issue. The whole argument is part B. What is it? Part B is all the expenses outside of hospital costs such as doctor's bill, such as outpatient, and et cetera. That is paid by the senior citizens from their own pocket and then the rest of them subsidized by the Government.

Let me tell you exactly what happens now. Used to be the 50 percent paid by the senior citizens, the other half sub-

sidized by the Government. It is now a little bit more than two-thirds subsidized by the taxpayers, one-third paid by the beneficiaries, senior citizens.

Who are these folks? Those are people working right now, some of them making only \$50,000 a year, supporting children, sending them to school. Tough. They cannot even afford to have their own medical care, but they have to support senior citizens. That is what it is, one-third by senior citizens, two-thirds by the rest of the taxpayers.

Next year, 25 percent paid by the beneficiary, 75 percent paid by the other taxpayers; one-quarter, three-quarter relationship. Eventually, year 2002, 18 percent will be paid by the beneficiary, remaining 82 percent paid by the other taxpayers. All we are trying to do is maintain the same ratio, one-third, two-thirds relationship, because we cannot afford to have this kind of relationship. There is no money to subsidize this any more.

Medical costs keep going up, so we all have to pay a little more. Senior citizens have to pay a little more, a few dollars a month more. The remaining taxpayers have to pay a little more to subsidize this. Let us take a look at the second to see what is happening.

Why are we having this trouble? Let us take a look at this. The senior citizens paying \$42.50, \$46.10 a month. That is all they are paying. Actually costs about \$150. The remaining balance is subsidized by the other taxpayers. This was the Republican plan, keeping one-third to two-thirds relationship because the hospital costs keep going up. Eventually we are going to ask senior citizens to pay a little more each month. By the end of the seventh year, end up paying \$87 a month.

They say, "My God, it is a huge increase." Let us take a look at Mr. Clinton's plan.

His plan is at the end 7 years \$83 a month, only \$4 difference. Eighty-seven versus eighty-three, this is such an important issue so that Government has to shut down?

Let us take a look at the second, how to pay for these things. Interesting. Take a look at the second. Mr. Clinton proposed actually next year that the senior citizens premium will go down and go up again. Why is that? It is a question of it happens to be election year.

I am not accusing anybody. I want to take a look closely at what are the big differences here. Eighty-seven versus eighty-three; is that really critically important to shut down the Government for this? Why do we lower the next year premium and then raise it again? Why? This is exactly what happened to part B.

I want to take a look at this, make your own judgment. Let us talk about the second issue.

The rich people do not pay their share, and we are taking advantage of them at the expense of poor people, putting all the poor people out in the cold to pay for huge tax cuts.

My time is up already. I will talk about this tomorrow night.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CONSUL GENERAL CHIUNE SUGIHARA

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the late Chiune Sugihara of Japan, credited with saving the lives of thousands of Jewish refugees fleeing Poland in 1940. Chiune Sugihara died an unsung hero in 1986, but recently his story has been brought to international distinction as the "Japanese Schindler." This quiet man of courage is now being honored after 55 years in a series of events worldwide, including today's gala tribute in New York City by the Holocaust Oral History project.

Chiune Sugihara was assigned to Kaunas, Lithuania in 1939, as the Consul General where the Japanese Government assigned him to report on Soviet actions and German war intentions. The Nazi World War II slaughter of Jews had begun and scores of Jewish families sought to escape from Europe—mostly from Germany, Austria, and Poland. In September 1939, the German invasion of Poland caused Jews to seek refuge in Lithuania, many who desperately wanted to find passage to safer lands. First, they needed to find visas.

Japanese Consul General Sugihara and his Wife Yukiko received numerous reports of appealing Nazi crimes against Jews. Not long afterward in July 1940, a line of Jewish families formed on the Sugihara doorstep, pleading with the diplomat to issue them transit visas for passage through Siberia into Japan via the Trans-Siberian Railway. Without the assurance that they would only transit through the Soviet Union, it was virtually impossible that Soviets would allow Jewish families to enter. He had however persuaded them to allow passage through the Soviet Union provided he could gain transit through Japan as well.

Consul General Sugihara cabled Japan three times asking permission to issue transit visas. He was denied three times. His desire to help seemed doomed.

But gaining his family support, Consul General Chiune Sugihara then made a conscious decision to defy the Japanese Government. From July 9, 1940 to August 31, 1940, he wrote more than 2,139 transit visas by hand, saving nearly 10,000 Jews from the Holocaust. He carefully kept a list of all these documents which have been incredibly found in the archives of the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

In the same summer, Nazi Germany and allied Italy occupied most of Eastern and Western Europe. Japan had remained aligned, but not yet allied, with Germany through the Comintern Pact of 1935. In late summer of 1940, USSR annexed Lithuania and the two

other Baltic States. Diplomats were told to leave immediately. Consul General Chiune Sugihara moved his family to a dingy hotel and continued to write visas. The Sugiharas were ordered to leave. Even as he was boarding the train to leave, Consul General Chiune Sugihara continued to issue visas from his train carriage window. In September 1940, Japan signed a tripartite pact with Germany and Italy.

The Sugiharas spent their remaining war years at various diplomatic posts in Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Romania. They were eventually captured and held in a Soviet prisoner-of-war camp until 1947, when the Sugiharas were finally allowed to travel back to their home country.

Upon his return, the Japanese Foreign Ministry dismissed him from diplomatic service and struck his name from their records because he had disobeyed their instructions. Nonetheless, Japan had honored his handwritten visas and allowed these Jewish refugees into the country, helping them to find permanent locations.

Chiune Sugihara lived out the rest of his life without any acknowledgement of his heroic deeds. He worked as a door-to-door lightbulb salesman, the most menial job any person could take to support his family. Later leaving his family in Japan, he went to work for a Japan import company in Moscow where he stayed for 16 years. Shortly before his death at 86 in 1986, Israel awarded Sugihara the Righteous Among Nations Award, its highest honor, in recognition of his humanitarian actions, and later named a grove of cedars after him in Jerusalem. Yet this man who was second only to Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg in the number of Jews saved from the Holocaust did not receive an apology from his own Government, allowing him to die in disgrace, literally in exile.

Notable are the 6,000 Jews who sought passage from Consul General Chiune Sugihara through the Trans-Siberian Railway from Japan to the Dutch Indies, Australia, New Zealand, Palestine, and the Americas. Among visa-holders was Zerah Warhaftig who met with Sugihara to arrange visas for others as the head of the Committee to Save Jewish Refugees. Warhaftig later became a signatory to Israel's declaration of independence and the country's foreign affairs minister. Menahem Savidor, another saved by Sugihara, later became speaker of the Knesset. Sugihara issued visas for Mir Yeshiva, the only yeshiva to survive the Holocaust, which settled in Kobe, Japan.

In recent years, survivor upon survivor of the Holocaust have come forth, with the knowledge of whose signature brought them to safety. Sarah Gershowitz Levy of Fresno, CA; Jack Friedman of Orlando, FL; and Rita Wenig of Pikesville, MD are among those thankful for Sugihara's courageous actions.

In 1991, the Foreign Ministry took its first steps to restore Sugihara's honor by meeting with Yukiko Sugihara, his

widow. Noticeably missing from this meeting was a clear apology from the Government for its treatment of Chiune Sugihara.

Immediately after Lithuania became an independent state in 1991, the country named a street in Kaunas after Sugihara. Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius in 1993 arranged a pilgrimage to Sugihara's hometown Yaotsu in Gifu Prefecture, central Japan, to lay a wreath on Sugihara's memorial cenotaph.

In August, 1993, the Education Ministry, one of the most conservative branches of the Japanese Government, agreed to have Consul General Chiune Sugihara's story published in a textbook for Japanese senior high school students.

Consul General Chiune Sugihara is being recognized for his greatness by the Holocaust Oral History project through organized exhibits and tributes, and a newsletter helping to link survivors. His noble bearing on world history must be validated on a global scale and the Japanese Government must find the words to apologize to this humble servant who understood his action was necessary in those times of terror, no matter what his own personal punishment might be. He and his family have endured poverty and ignominy for over 50 years. Sugihara's decision to act in defiance of his Government, because he knew to do otherwise would mean certain death for these innocent people, is the highest calling of our humanity.

Chiune Sugihara embodied the spirit of love and the conscience of a saint. His heroic deed shines forth to enkindle and comfort all in this world who still search for hope.

The following are my personal remarks made in New York City at town hall on November 14, 1995, in the tribute for this great man.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY CONGRESSWOMAN PATSY T. MINK, AT TOWN HALL, NEW YORK CITY, NOVEMBER 14, 1995

Distinguished guests, Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara, Hiroki Sugihara:

I have the deep honor and privilege to introduce Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara, the widow of the late Chiune Sugihara, whom we have come to honor tonight.

It was Mrs. Sugihara and her family who paid the heavy price of banishment for their ultimate exercise of moral responsibility and for the love and compassion they felt for the Jewish refugees who flocked to them for help in those dark hours of death and despair.

Consul General Chiune Sugihara was born on January 1, 1900 of samurai class. He was well educated, schooled in the art and discipline of diplomacy, learned in the language of his assignments, fluent in the Russian language, destined for high posts, he was highly regarded by his associates. He adapted easily to his assignments. His nature is revealed by reports that he even joined the Russian Orthodox church. He was a rising star in his ministry. He knew that it was his job to carry out the wishes of his government.

From his desk in Lithuania in 1940 he became keenly aware of the violent scourge of hate that condemned the Jewish people to isolation and death.

In that fateful summer of 1940 shortly after he was assigned to Lithuania as Consul General, thousands of Jewish refugees were fleeing Poland and other places. His consulate