

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CHILD CARE CONSOLIDATION AND INVESTMENT ACT OF 1996

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Child Care Consolidation and Investment Act of 1996. I am pleased that my colleague, Senator DODD, has introduced the companion to this bill in the Senate.

The Child Care Consolidation and Investment Act of 1996 consolidates all the major child care programs, including the Child Care and Development Block Grant, into a seamless system of child care for working parents. It invests in child care by increasing funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Funds are increased to \$2.8 for fiscal year 1997, and each year thereafter. By fiscal year 2001, my bill provides \$4.7 billion for child care.

My bill creates a seamless web of support for families, all the way from welfare to work. Everyone is talking about welfare reform these days, and they should be. The current welfare system is broken. It's not working for the taxpayers and it's not working for the recipients. As cochair of the Democratic Congressional Task Force on Welfare Reform, I helped produce a proposal that reforms our ineffective welfare system by investing in education, training, and support services, including child care, to get families off welfare permanently.

Now, the House of Representatives has passed a bill that purports to move people off of welfare. However, it fails to remove one of the biggest barriers that keep even trained individuals from work: lack of available, safe, affordable child care. The bill that I am introducing today removes that barrier by ensuring that children have a safe place to go while their parents get job training and move into jobs. This bill ensures that single, custodial parents of young children will not be required to undertake education, job training, job search or employment unless appropriate child care is made available.

The Child Care Consolidation and Investment Act of 1996 doesn't stop there. It also directs States to reserve funds to carry out child care activities to support low-income working families, and before and after school care.

There is no question that working families need more child care. But, it is not enough to fund more facilities. Children must have a safe, clean environment that is both stimulating and nurturing if they are going to grow into adults that this country can rely on.

The Child Care Consolidation and Investment Act of 1996 expands access to affordable child care while improving the quality of child care. It does this by providing States with set-aside funds for quality improvements to child care. It also establishes a quality improvement incentive initiative that will make additional funds available to States that show progress in implementing innovative teacher

training programs and improved child care quality standards, licensing, and monitoring procedures.

Mr. Speaker, child care has traditionally been a bipartisan issue in the House of Representatives, so I hope that my colleagues from both sides of the aisle will join with me to ensure that no children in this country will be left alone, at home, in a car, or on the streets because their parents are doing their best to support their family. Let's move forward with welfare reform, but let's not leave our kids behind.

PHILMONT FIRE COMPANY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, anyone who visits my office cannot help but notice the display of fire helmets that dominates my reception area. They are there for two reasons. First, I had the privilege of being a volunteer fireman in my hometown of Queensbury for more than 20 years, which helps explain the second reason, the tremendous respect that experience gave me for those who provide fire protection in our rural areas.

In a rural area like the 22d District of New York, fire protection is often solely in the hands of these volunteer companies. In New York State alone they save countless lives and billions of dollars worth of property. That is why the efforts of people like those fire fighters in the Philmont Fire Department is so critical.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. The town of Philmont in Columbia County is certainly no exception. The traits which make me most fond of such communities is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community makes places like Philmont great places to live. This concept of community service is exemplified by the devoted service of the members of their volunteer fire department. For 100 years now, this organization has provided critical services for their neighbors on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Speaker, it has become all too seldom that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harms way for the sake of another. While almost all things have changed over the years, thankfully for the residents in Philmont, the members of their fire department have selflessly performed their duty, without remiss, since the formation of this organization one century ago. On Saturday, July 27, 1996, the fire company will be holding a parade to commemorate this milestone. Not only will this offer the residents around Philmont a chance to enjoy themselves at the planned festivities,

but it will provide the perfect opportunity for them to extend their gratitude to this organization and its members, both past and present.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. On that scale, the members of the Philmont Fire Company are great Americans. I am truly proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of voluntarism which has been such a central part of American life. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all Members of the House to join me in paying tribute to the Philmont Fire Company on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THREE DISTINGUISHED EAGLE SCOUTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three distinguished young men for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout of the Boy Scouts of America [BSA]. Joseph Rybarczyk, Adam Summers, and Anthony Paul Pagorek are all members of the Boy Scout Troop No. 542, sponsored by St. Thomas More Catholic Church Holy Name Society of Munster. They will receive this honor at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, July 21, 1996, at the Munster Community Social Center located in Munster, IN.

An elite group of 2.5 percent of all Boy Scouts attain the Eagle Scout ranking, which is the highest of seven rankings in the Boy Scouts organization. In order to become an Eagle Scout, one must complete the following three tasks; earn 21 merit badges; complete a service project; and demonstrate strong leadership skills within the troop.

According to Stephen Kennedy, Troop Scout Master of BSA Troop No. 542, all three young men are longstanding members of Troop No. 542, as well as outstanding students. Joe, a student at Munster High School and a member of their school band, did an angel tree with the Salvation Army. This project provided Christmas gifts for the Salvation Army to distribute throughout the holiday. Joe was also a senior patrol leader, which is the highest position in the troop. Adam, also a member of Munster High School and their school band, took part in park improvements for the town of Munster. Specifically, he helped to restore several park benches. Anthony, an outstanding student and athlete at Andrean High School, improved landscaping around St. Thomas More Catholic Church. Anthony also attended the National Scout Preserve in Philmont, NM. This preserve is a high adventure camp with a rugged terrain.

The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout always has carried with it special significance, not only in scouting, but also as he enters

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

higher education, a career, or community service. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Adam Summers, Anthony Paul Pagorek, and Joseph Rybarczyk for their commendable efforts in society. It takes a great deal of tenacity and devotion to achieve such an illustrious ranking. These three young men have established promising futures, while at the same time improving the quality of life in Indiana's First Congressional District.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ATLANTIC ELECTRIC

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, Atlantic Electric, a utility serving residents in the Second District, sponsors an outstanding program to assist teenagers in Cumberland County. For its role in this effort—called the Peer Group Connection program—Atlantic Electric was honored with a Special Distinction Award for Educational Partnerships from the Edison Electric Institute [EEI]. Ms. Fern Mills, manager of community relations for Atlantic Electric, was recently in Washington to receive the award from EEI president Thomas R. Kuhn.

The Peer Group Connection program is a partnership effort between Atlantic Electric, Cumberland Regional High School, and community members of Cumberland County. It seeks to address difficulties in transition between elementary and secondary school through effective use of peer influence. The program seeks to build safe, responsive communities in which ethnic, racial, and cultural differences are respected.

In making the presentation during a Capitol Hill ceremony, Mr. Kuhn said:

Recognizing that helping teenagers helps society, Atlantic Electric joined other leading Cumberland County, New Jersey businesses in starting the Peer Group Connection, as a support group for high school students coping with the pressures of growing up. Results show higher grades, fewer absences, and a more positive attitude toward school.

To Atlantic Electric and others involved in the educational partnerships, I say congratulations—keep up the good work.

TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3756) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, here we go again, get ready, the Gingrich-

Armey Republicans had so much fun last year—shutting down the Government, causing insecurity for the American people, and downright scaring the hard-working citizens in every district about the ability of the Federal Government to keep operating—that the Gingrich-Army Republicans are trying to do it all over again. The one-sided, Republican partisan drafted Federal appropriations bill is being shoved down the throats of the President and the American people. What will happen? Well, if the bill is unacceptable to the President in his analysis of what is best for the American people, he will veto it.

Mr. Speaker, it isn't rocket science to understand what is unacceptable about this bill. In H.R. 3756, Treasury-Postal Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1997 the Gingrich Republicans provide \$23.3 billion for the Treasury Department, U.S. Postal Service, and various offices of the Executive Office of the President. Sure, that's a lot of money, a billion here and a billion there, pretty soon begins to look like real money—but this funding level is \$1.3 billion less than recommended by the administration, you know, the one that is responsible to the American people for the delivery of services and programs under the jurisdiction of those Federal agencies.

One provision in this legislation is similar to a bill I have introduced to provide a permanent solution to the issue of FBI background checks. However, the Gingrich provision doesn't go far enough. Recent hearings held by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, of which I am the ranking minority member, revealed a longstanding, apparently open system with a lack of adequate protections over these kinds of sensitive records. We also learned that when Presidents leave office, they take these files with them to their Presidential libraries, where the protections are just as weak, or nonexistent.

The Clinton White House and the FBI, to their credit, have made some significant internal changes to make sure this type of mistake cannot happen again. We need to ensure, however, that future White Houses continue to provide adequate protection to these records. That is why I introduced the Background Security Records Act of 1996, H.R. 3785, to guarantee that these most sensitive and private records are protected, to tighten restrictions on how these records are obtained and treated, and to make accountable high-ranking FBI and White House officials for their protection.

My Background Security Records Act of 1996 would do four things: First, it would send back to the FBI the security records of individuals no longer at the White House; second, it would require the written permission of the individual whose record is requested from the FBI before the FBI could send it to the White House; third, the bill would extend the criminal sanctions of the Privacy Act to the misuse of these records; and fourth, it would require the Secret Service to develop accurate lists of individuals in need of access to the White House. My bill goes even farther than the provisions in this appropriations bill that don't really accomplish what is needed, the appropriations' bill provision just gives token attention to the issue.

In slashing the President's request for appropriations, the Gingrich Republicans attempt to dictate Federal administrative reorganization. For instance, by a number of tactics, the

Republicans are trying to give the Department of Defense the responsibility of modernizing the Internal Revenue Services' computer and information technology. Come on. Are the Republicans' special interest defense contractors so out of work that we have to turn over the IRS to them? Mr. Speaker, I object.

If that's not enough, those same Republican extremists who want to shrink Federal Government as long as it only cuts education, cuts social services, and cuts housing or other programs designed to provide a bridge to self-sufficiency for the middle- and low-income Americans, not the Gingrich Republicans' special interest fat-cats—now that same party wants to tie the purse strings of this administration on things that they, Gingrich Republicans, can't tie up on a straight up-and-down vote during a public debate. I think it's particularly funny that the Gingrich Republicans apparently think the American people are so dumb that they can't see this as a "tax reform" effort to further erode the ability of the IRS to administer and enforce tax collection.

Of all the appropriations bills, perhaps this one should be the most responsive to the request of a President, any President. But this Gingrich Republican bill denies President Clinton the ability to manage his own house, the Executive Office of the President. Does it make sense for any opposition party to be able to dictate to a sitting President how that President runs his or her own Government house? That is a strictly partisan attack on a Democratic Presidency.

Come on, even the Gingrich-Army Republicans can't believe the American people are that dumb. I urge my colleagues to reject this appropriations bill.

PERUVIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 175th anniversary of Peruvian independence. On July 28, 1821, Don Jose de San Martin led rebel troops in freeing Peru from Spanish rule. The victories of this Peruvian national hero in many ways laid the foundation for independence for all of South America.

I am proud to say that in the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey, this great day is going to be remembered with all the fanfare it deserves. From July 20 to 28, we will celebrate Peruvian Heritage Days. The days will consist of numerous activities to enhance public awareness of Peruvian history and cultural heritage, and the crowning event will be the parade on Sunday, the 28th. I know from personal experience that it will be both interesting and entertaining.

Mr. Speaker, on this most auspicious occasion, I feel compelled to point out that this day should be a special one not only for Peruvians and Peruvian-Americans, but for freedom-loving people everywhere. Neither the United States nor Peru would be the proud countries we know today if people who came before us had not stood up for their rights, and demanded national sovereignty and independence.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, allow me to add that regardless of whether you favor the melting