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# HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Historically Black Colleges Historic Building Restoration and Preservation Act. From Civil War battles to civil rights marches, the campuses of historically black colleges and universities [HBCU's] have been the site of many significant events in America's history. Scattered throughout the Nation, many of these institutions of higher learning have fostered the academic development of African-Americans for over a century.

The rising price of historic preservation compounded by years of low funding and neglect have left many historic buildings on the campuses of HBCU's in poor condition. The \$29 million in grants this bill authorizes is desperately needed for the rehabilitation of these structures. By providing matching funds, HBCU's will be able to restore these prominent landmarks for the enjoyment of local communities and the benefit of future students.

Of the \$29 million in grants authorized to this bill, there are also several colleges that are earmarked to receive funds because of their important contributions to the education of African-Americans in their areas. This bill authorizes \$3 million for historic preservation at Tougaloo College and \$1 million for Rust College, both located in Mississippi. At Tougaloo these funds will be used to repair prominent buildings such as the Mansion, a 13-room home built in 1848. Rust College will use these funds to ensure the survival of many structures, including Oakview Hall which served as an office for the Holly Springs Slave market and as quarters of General Grant's troops during the Civil War.

Most Americans agree that education provides the best chance of preparing today's youth to lead the Nation in the next century. Although Thomas Jefferson's dream of educational opportunity for every American has not yet been reached, legislation like H.R. 1179 takes positive steps toward its fulfillment. The supporters of this bill should be commended for their commitment to providing the colleges and universities that serve African-Americans with the resources needed to provide an educational atmosphere that protects the past as a means of inspiring the future.

# RECLAMATION RECYCLING AND WATER CONSERVATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address provisions in H.R. 3660, the Reclamation Recycling and Water Conservation Act.

I commend the gentleman from Utah, Mr. HANSEN, and the Resources Committee for their efforts. H.R. 3660, which is directed solely to the Department of the Interior, moves this country in the right direction environmentally—i.e., to recycle, reuse, and conserve our precious water resources.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance for various projects relating to water and wastewater reclamation and reuse and desalinization. Nothing in this bill affects the authorities of the Army Corps of Engineers or the Environmental Protection Agency relating to water reclamation and management, wastewater treatment and desalinization or authorities and requirements under water resource laws that apply to the Corps of Engineers or authorities and requirements under the Clean Water Act.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has jurisdiction over various Corps of Engineers' and EPA' authorities, which may include water and wastewater treatment and reclamation, as well as desalinization.

I congratulate the Resources Committee for its efforts to reclaim, recycle and conserve water resources throughout the Western States and look forward to working with them on water and wastewater reclamation and desalinization projects and programs in the future.

# TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARGE KELTNER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a great citizen who has made a tremendous impact on educating children in the School City of Hammond, IN. Mrs. Marge Keltner, title I director for the School City of Hammond, retired at the end of the 1996 school year.

Mrs. Keltner began her career in education in 1955 as a fourth grade classroom teacher. She came to the School City of Hammond in 1959 in the same capacity. In 1965, Mrs. Keltner's teaching assignment changed when she became the title I reading teacher. Title I is a federally funded educational program that assists students who have reading problems. Mrs. Keltner's role with title I expanded through the years as she became a title I reading teacher coordinator, instructional supervisor, and, finally, program director. Mrs. Keltner also taught undergraduate and graduate level education at Indiana University Northwest and Purdue University Calumet.

In addition to her work with the title I program, Mrs. Keltner worked diligently to foster

literacy. She is currently a charter member of the Hammond Area Reading Council and has served on the board of directors for the Calumet Area Literary Council. In addition, Mrs. Keltner served two terms as president of the Indiana State Reading Council and was appointed by Governor Bayh to a statewide Literacy Coalition.

Marge Keltner can be very proud of the work she has done to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District. She serves as a positive role model for teachers and students alike, and proves that with a little assistance from a caring teacher, a child can grow into and prosper as a productive adult.

# THE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM: FORMER SENATOR BOB DOLE SAID HE DID NOT READ IT—BUT IT SHOULD BE READ

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago the American people were treated to a confusing spectacle in San Diego. The platform adopted by the Republican Party 1 week before the Republican convention reflected the same extremist, Contract-With-America rhetoric that we in the Congress have witnessed for the past 20 months. This is the same extremist program that the majority of the American people have clearly and unequivocally rejected.

The following week, a tightly-scripted convention took place in San Diego which ignored the existence of this radical document. That same convention—for obvious reasons—also ignored the so-called Contract With America.

The Republican Presidential candidate, former Senator Robert Dole, told the press he had not read his party's platform. The Republican platform, however, does deserve to be read, Mr. Speaker, because it is important for the American people to know the views of those who are in the majority within the Republican Party. The Republican platform tells us the views of the people who will play leading roles if there should be a Dole administration—which, I hasten to add, I sincerely hope there will not be.

Mr. Speaker, an excellent analysis and summary of the Republican platform appeared as an editorial in the September 2 issue of *The New Republic*. I ask that this excellent editorial be placed in the RECORD. I urge my colleagues to read it. This editorial gives an excellent summary of some of the most egregious and disturbing problems with that extremist document.

[From the *New Republic*, Sept. 2, 1996]

# PLATFORM DIVING

Is the Republican platform worth reading? Not to Bob Dole, who still hasn't found the time, nor to the GOP's oh-so-moderate convention speakers, who appear chosen largely because they disagree with its plank on abortion (criminalize it, even when the mother's life is at stake). But although the platform is, predictably, a farrago of inoffensive pabulum ("We are the party of the American family, educating children, caring for the sick . . .") and unintended hilarity ("Prisons should not be places of rest and relaxation"), it still provides a useful glimpse into the contradictions of what remains the closest thing America has to a majority party.

Take, for example, the planks on terrorism, which both excoriate President Clinton for coddling terrorists and pander to the GOP's Ruby Ridge wing: "To take away the liberty of the American people while fighting terrorism is repugnant to the history and character of our nation." How will the anti-big government Republicans fight terrorism while opposing things like taggants to trace bomb-powder? Establish a "blue ribbon" commission. Nothing scares killers like a panel of experts.

Elsewhere, the platform gets similarly caught between its enthusiasm for states' rights and its insistence that they do the right-wing thing. The GOP would "require the original sponsor of [any] proposed federal legislation to cite specific constitutional authority for the measure." Yet the platform cites no such authority for its own calls to nationalize product-liability law and to force legal reforms upon the states: "restore limited liability" to churches "to provide protection against profit-seeking lawsuits," "eliminate the use of junk science" by "opportunistic attorneys" and so on.

Along with scrapping the Education Department, the platform says plainly, "the federal government has no constitutional authority to be involved in the school curricula." But a few lines later comes a truly bizarre call for Napoleonic micromanagement: an exhortation to "requir[e] our public schools to dedicate one full day each year to studying the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution."

Why not a week? For when the Republicans get through with the Constitution, there'll be a lot more of it to study. A cursory count yields calls for six new amendments: to extend Fourteenth Amendment citizenship protections to the unborn; to deny them to the children of illegal immigrants born in the U.S.; to protect "victims' rights"; and, of course, to outlaw the various forms of mutilation and political adornment that might fall under the category of "desecration" of the American flag. Banning abortion and flag-burning are hardy perennials, and victims' rights, too, is becoming a familiar pander. The denial of birthright citizenship, however—a radical shift in our notion of Americanhood—demands vociferous rebuttal from all responsible quarters.

In its economic planks, the platform states, "Research and development is our commitment to the future." It then endorses "de-emphasizing the role of government"—that is, cutting spending—on R&D, which is what the GOP Congress proposed. The next paragraph praises a Dole-sponsored law that expanded federally funded research. The GOP sounds similarly confused on homeownership, which, it declares, "is not something government gives to the people, but rather something they can attain for themselves. . . ." Two sentences later, it reiterates support for the mortgage interest tax deduction, a subsidy the government provides to boost homeownership.

On foreign policy, the platform betrays open warfare between the party's neocons and its America-firsters. "We vigorously support restoring the promotion of democracy worldwide," the preamble announces. How? Not by using economic aid to reward poor countries for breaking with authoritarianism. That, the platform says, is "social welfare spending in the Third World." The multinational disarmament and election-monitoring efforts that have given birth to democracy in Mozambique, Cambodia and El Salvador meet with reproach, too. "Bill Clinton's peacekeeping operations and other global ventures" haven't had "any discernible benefit to U.S. national security." Of course not. Promoting democracy in impoverished corners of the globe isn't an

expression of American interests in any direct way, it's an expression of American beliefs. But the Buchanan wing of the party doesn't think that America should have moral concerns beyond its borders. So the platform's specific foreign policy planks render its preamble meaningless.

Bob Dole has, understandably, tried to bury this mishmash of confusion and dishonesty in the scripted moderation of San Diego. Still, if this is the best statement his party can offer about what it would do in office, what does it say about the policies he would pursue as president?

## UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 120, a resolution that recognizes the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence and applauds the efforts of the people of Ukraine to reform the political and economic system of that nation.

This has been a memorable year for the Ukrainian people. In April, we all recalled the 10th anniversary of the tragedy of Chernobyl. Ukraine is still feeling the effects of that disaster, but together we are making progress to assess the long-term effects of Chernobyl on the people, animals, and land in Ukraine.

Just over 2 months ago, President Kuchma and the Ukrainian Parliament ratified a new constitution for the nation. This historic action will ensure that Ukrainians enjoy all the freedoms that are guaranteed to people who live in a democracy, and will ensure that Ukraine remains on the path of reform of its political and economic system.

Most recently, in August, Ukrainians celebrated the fifth anniversary of their independence. Today, Ukraine is making great strides, and American support for the people of Ukraine has helped immensely.

Ukraine is one of Europe's largest, most vibrant nations. The government and people of Ukraine are making the transformation to a market economy, beginning to privatize state-owned enterprises, establishing the rule of law, and creating a positive environment for trade and investment.

Ukraine stands as a proud member of the community of nations by supporting efforts to stem proliferation of nuclear weapons, by ratifying the START-I Treaty, by representing the interests of the smaller states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and by providing peacekeeping troops in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker, as a Ukrainian-American, I am especially proud of the close ties our two nations have. Our two peoples have so much to share with each other. This weekend in Macomb County, MI, we will be celebrating the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence and its new constitution. We will also be exploring bilateral investment and trade opportunities in Ukraine with Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak. It will be my great honor during these events to receive the Shevchenko Freedom Award for contributions to Ukrainian statehood.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to a future in which Ukraine and the United States will enjoy even closer ties.

## JUSTICE WILL BE DONE

HON. JOHN T. MYERS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, justice sometimes is slow in coming, but usually does prevail. This is the issue in the case involving "Baby Richard." This little boy, whose only offense was being born to a mother who did not want him, was taken from the only parents he ever knew who had legally adopted him at birth. Through the action of a judge and an attorney he was given to a father who did not know he existed at the time of his birth. He was promised that he could see his adoptive brother, but that has been denied to this little fellow.

The following article by Hevrdejs & Conklin, Inc. appeared September 3, 1996 in the Chicago Tribune.

[The Chicago Tribune, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 1996]

ATTORNEY'S LUCK RUNNING SHORT AFTER  
"BABY RICHARD" CASE

(By Hevrdejs & Conklin Inc.)

We know many readers were delighted when Illinois Supreme Court Justice James Heiple, who wrote the unpopular "Baby Richard" decision, subsequently got into an embarrassing traffic scrape with police. Now comes word Loren Heinemann, the lawyer who won custody of "Baby Richard" for Otakar Kirchner, (a decision upheld by Heiple), has filed for personal bankruptcy. According to the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, Heinemann lists \$602,000 in liabilities. He also is defending himself in five unrelated cases of professional misconduct. Do we detect a "Baby Richard" curse at work here?

## TRIBUTE TO GERTRUDE "GERT" R. TABER

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I have the sad duty today to report to this House the death of a fellow elected official, Gertrude "Gert" R. Taber, from the fifth supervisorial district in my home county of Mariposa, CA. I had the privilege of serving with Gert on the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, and of knowing Gert as the first lady of Mariposa since I was a young child.

Gert served on the board from November 1979 until her passing last week. She provided the citizens of Mariposa County with 17 years of dedicated service during a time of great change in California, and in Mariposa County. Adapting to change was a starting point for Gert, when she broke the barriers of the board of supervisors as the first woman supervisor in the then 125 year history of that board.

Gert had many accomplishments as a supervisor, mostly for modernizing Mariposa County's government by creating new administrative, personnel, data processing, community services, fire and other departments and