

West Virginia in recent months and recent days, expressing concern over the budget impasse. More recently, their communications have dealt with the Government shutdown and their fears not only for themselves who are Federal employees, but the fears of those who are not, but whose family members rely upon earned Social Security and veterans benefit checks arriving on time.

One such person—Lynn Murphy of Princeton, WV, wrote to voice her concern over the worry she could see in her father's eyes when report after report told him that his Social Security disability and veterans benefit checks might be delayed or fall short of the total benefits due as a result of the budget battles and the longest Government shutdown in our history—a battle still raging in Congress.

While we were able to vote on a measure that assured Social Security and veterans benefit checks would arrive on time and not fall short of their total amount due, when Lynn Murphy wrote her letter and accompanying tribute to her veteran father in the form of a poem, neither she nor her father knew for sure and they were worried.

In Ms. Murphy's poem, she not only pays homage to her father, but speaks to each of us as Members of the House concerning our need to get it together and put a stop to scarring the elderly, our veterans, and others who depend upon benefits of one kind or another for their daily necessities. She calls upon Congress not to forget her father and others like him as they continue to debate a balanced budget.

On behalf of Ms. Murphy's deep and abiding love for her father, I am privileged to commend the poem she wrote in tribute to him and his life, to the reading of my colleagues and all who have access to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as we try to make some progress on coming to an agreement to fund the U.S. Government.

Mr. Speaker, the untitled poem by Lynn Murphy follows:

My father fought in two separate wars and still come out with life.

He then worked for the mines, and took my Mom to be his wife.

With my Mom came a family, and my Dad wanted it that way.

No matter how bad my Daddy felt, He was still at work every day.

Finally, my Dad retired at the age of Fifty-five

And with all my Dad has endured in his life, his is lucky to be alive.

So Congress, when you make your decisions, the way you need to do, remember my Dad risked his life, for others, and for you.

Why shouldn't he get his disability checks from Social Security and the VA?

Those checks pay the bills for he and Mom; he doesn't throw his money away.

I've watched my parents do without to see that us kids had.

And they both were on their feet each day, Although often they felt so bad.

My Dad deserves an honorary award for he is the greatest Dad in the land.

I hope he will always get his checks, and I hope you will understand.

Look to God for answers to questions, that may arise on Capitol Hill.

And think about my Dad who still strives to do God's will.

Let God ease the problems. Have faith and you will see

that everything seems to work out, if it is God's will for it to be.

NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS: COLLEGE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, last night the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers firmly convinced all of America that they are still the No. 1 college football team in the country.

The Huskers' complete domination of the University of Florida Gators in the Fiesta Bowl for a 62 to 24 win was truly one of the most impressive displays of offensive and defensive talent in college football history.

It is also important to note that this awe-inspiring victory was Nebraska's 36th win in a 3-year period, establishing a new record.

The Cornhuskers, under the extraordinary coaching and steady leadership of Coach Tom Osborne, demonstrated remarkable persistence and consistency in their drive toward a second consecutive national championship. Their committed efforts show that the reward of success is won by dedication, teamwork, exceptional conditioning, high motivation, and the superior efforts of Coach Osborne and his coaching and support staff.

As an alumnus of the university and the Representative in Congress from Lincoln, the home of the Huskers, this Member enthusiastically congratulates the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers and Coach Osborne on another well-deserved national championship.

CONGRESSMAN BARNEY FRANK ON "DEMOCRACY REAFFIRMED IN ISRAEL"

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to an article written by our distinguished colleague from Massachusetts, BARNEY FRANK. It appeared in the Boston Globe on December 25 of last year.

Barney has given an outstanding analysis of how Israel has dealt with the emotional and political aftermath of the tragic assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. His analysis is particularly significant—not only for democratic Israel, but also for industrial societies such as our own and for developing democratic societies in the former Soviet Union and in the Third World—who must deal with the relationship between terrorism and democracy, between violence and freedom. As he said: "For nearly 50 years, Israel has been the most persistent and successful in demonstrating that democracy is not a luxury to be enjoyed only by societies that are wealthy, secure and well insulated from outside attack, but is a recognition of the fundamental right of men and women to govern themselves freely."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire article by Mr. Frank be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues read it and give it thoughtful and careful attention.

DEMOCRACY REAFFIRMED IN ISRAEL

In the emotional aftermath of the searing, tragic murder of Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli society has understandably been deeply engaged in a debate over the role of dissent in a democracy. But the most important aspect of this debate—both for Israel and the rest of the world—is what is not being discussed. No significant elements within Israel are arguing that there should be any serious curtailment of the vigorous, open democracy that has characterized Israel since its beginning. It is significant that Israelis are not questioning their commitment to democracy at this terrible time.

In many societies, the murder of a popular leader in the midst of a delegate set of negotiations involving the security of the Nation would have led to widespread repression of elements in the opposition party, whether or not they were connected to the murder. The sad fact is that in most societies facing the kind of overwhelming physical threats to their existence that Israel has lived with since 1948, democracy would never have flourished in the first place. The mature, pained, thoughtful response of Israeli society to this murder is a reminder of something that would be a grave error to overlook: every condition that has been put forward by repressive rulers in the post-war world to justify the suppression of democracy has been present in Israel since its inception, and the experience of Israel is an eloquent repudiation of the notion that democracy is a luxury to be indulged only by those nations that are prosperous and secure.

From its birth, Israel's existence was threatened by attack from the overwhelmingly larger hostile forces which surround it. While fighting to defend its right to exist, Israel has also coped with the difficult economic problems of a new nation, compounded by the military drain on its resources and its unshakable commitment to absorb large numbers of Jewish refugees from oppression elsewhere in the world. Through all of this, Israel has maintained a commitment to a flourishing, vigorous democracy, governed by leaders chosen in elections as free as those held anywhere in the world, amidst untrammelled—often raucous—free speech.

Among those who have enjoyed the rights of free speech and the ability to participate fully in free elections are members of the Arab minority, some of whom reject the very legitimacy of the state of Israel. But that rejection has never been used to prevent them from participating fully in the electoral process on a one-person/one-vote basis, and those they vote for are seated in parliament with full rights to vote, debate, etc.

There should be nothing remarkable about these facts, and in the United States or much of Western Europe they would not be. But among those nations which have come into being since the end of the war, this pattern is an exception. And it is especially exceptional in nations that have faced severe external threats from heavily armed enemies, have been struggling simultaneously with the difficult task of economic development, have been severely divided internally over some fundamental issues involving the security of the nation and have undergone the difficult social process of absorption of large numbers of migrants, many of whom come ill-prepared at first to deal with the complexities of modern society.

In fact, Israel has now become through the peace process an exporter of democracy in the Middle East. The elections that will soon

be held in the West Bank will be freer and more democratically legitimated than any other elections in the nations surrounding Israel. It is highly unlikely that Yasser Arafat would have decided that elections were the appropriate path to power in the emerging Palestinian entity had that not been a condition laid down by the Israeli government in the ongoing negotiations.

As with our own country, Israeli democracy has not been perfect. There have been lapses, although these have been few compared with the territories. And much of what we know about these occasional lapses comes from the vigorous denunciation of them from people and organizations within Israel, because its democracy is among other things appropriately self-critical.

Israel is not the only new nation that is working hard to demonstrate that democracy is the best way to cope with the multiple dangers in the post-war world. Through the efforts of Nelson Mandela and others, South Africa is also on the list of societies that seek to make this point. But for nearly 50 years, Israel has been the most persistent and successful in demonstrating that democracy is not a luxury to be enjoyed only by societies that are wealthy, secure and well insulated from outside attack, but is a recognition of the fundamental right of men and women to govern themselves freely. When properly understood, it strengthens society and better enables it to cope with the gravest problems.

RECOGNIZING PHYLLIS L. PETERSON

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, education is a crucial building block of our society. An informed electorate is critical to effective self-government. An educated work force is vital to a successful economy. And the capacity for knowledgeable decisionmaking enriches our individual lives.

Dr. Phyllis L. Peterson has played an important role in turning these principles into realities for thousands of men and women in the East Bay of San Francisco. For 12 years she has served ably as president of Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, CA, located in the heart of the Golden State's 10th Congressional District, which I represent here in Washington. Overseeing Diablo's growth as a premier community college, she has been nationally recognized for her leadership in preparing young adults both for careers in the job market and for further academic pursuits.

When Dr. Peterson retires later this year, she will leave a legacy of hope and opportunity for the many lives she has touched in her 37 years as an educator. Her development of the Center for Higher Education in San Ramon made education available in an area previously without a higher educational presence. Her leadership enabled Diablo Valley College to grow to its present enrollment of 23,000 students, providing them with a quality, affordable, and accessible education.

In 1993, her peers called on her to serve as head of the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges. The University of Texas Community College leadership program recognized her as an outstanding community college president and the Association

of California Community College Administrators honored her with the Harry Buttmer Distinguished Administrator Award.

These signal honors were bestowed in recognition of Dr. Peterson's commitment to higher education, her capability as an administrator, and her love for students. Dr. Phyllis L. Peterson is an exemplary educator and community leader, and richly deserves our thanks for all she has done to prepare new leaders for our country and our world. I am pleased to call on my colleagues to join me in honoring her today.

CORNHUSKERS WIN ANOTHER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: A CREDIT TO TEAMWORK AND DEDICATED COACHING

HON. BILL BARRETT

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, last night the 1995 college football season climaxed with an awesome display of athletic ability, teamwork, determination, and brilliant coaching. I refer, of course, to the Fiesta Bowl, in Tempe, AZ, and the Nebraska Cornhuskers' impressive and decisive victory over the Florida Gators.

The No. 1 Huskers rolled over the No. 2 Gators 62 to 24 to win their second consecutive NCAA football championship. The Fiesta Bowl win capped off a second straight undefeated season, and put the Big Red in the record books as the first team in 40 years to win back-to-back, undefeated, undisputed national championships.

While some of the Cornhusker players are receiving the laurels of victory because of their outstanding individual performances in last night's game, the real credit rests with the hard work, dedication, and discipline of the entire Cornhusker squad. The old adage that there is no "I" in "TEAM" was never more apparent.

Those who watched the game last night saw a team that loves to play the game and plays it better than any other team in the country. The team was both the Husker offense and defense, and the team ran over, around, and through the vaunted Florida Gators.

Cornhusker Coach Dr. Tom Osborne heads a football program in which we in Nebraska take great pride. It is renowned for its success on the field, but also for its program of weight training and physical conditioning. Dr. Tom is a true sportsman and insists his players be the same. He is also an educator, and it shows in his program—Nebraska has had more academic all-Americans than any other program and graduates more than 85 percent of its players.

It takes not only exceptional talent, but also patience, a thick skin, great courage, and character to coach a team of Nebraska's caliber and national exposure. I applaud Coach Osborne's victory in the Fiesta Bowl last night, and I applaud his unswerving determination to support his players and do what he believes best to turn out young men who understand the responsibility of being not only champions on the football field, but also good citizens. It is not always easy; it is not always without its

setbacks, but the success and quality of the players he sends into the world each year speaks volumes about the coaching of Dr. Tom and his staff.

I'm confident that in the annals of college football, the University of Nebraska Cornhusker teams of 1994 and 1995 will be heralded as among the best ever to step onto the college gridiron. I'm even more confident that the discipline and hard work needed to achieve that victory will inspire thousands of Nebraskans and Americans in years to come to achieve the best in their families, communities, businesses, and government.

Congratulations, Huskers.

VALUES

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report of Wednesday, December 27, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

VALUES

"Peace on earth, good will toward men"—it is a blessing echoed often at this time of year. While we have many reasons to be grateful that we live in the U.S., it is also true that Americans daily face many disturbing realities—crime, drug abuse, illegitimacy—which strike right at the heart of a decent life. A few years ago "It's the economy, stupid" conveyed the idea that the economy was paramount on voters' minds; now people are more inclined to blame the nation's problems on the moral decline. Today social issues like crime, welfare, education, and racial preference, and cultural issues like abortion, gay rights, school prayer, flag burning, and television violence have become prominent.

Americans are struggling to restore old-fashioned values to a central place in their lives and to revitalize the family. Parents struggle to raise their children in the face of powerful forces that are sending very different messages to their children than they want to send. Again and again I have been asked by distraught parents to watch a particular movie, listen to a particular piece of music, or watch a television show or video game that encourages casual sex or incessant violence. One parent said to me the other day, "What in the world is going on?"

What parents tell me they really want in life is a benign environment for raising their children. They express deep concern about the birth rate for unwed mothers and the divorce rate, both of which have doubled in recent decades. They are distressed that more children are being raised with less supervision and fewer resources, putting them at much greater risk for delinquency. Each day I encounter heroic parents who have kept their family together against all the odds.

Concern for moral values has always been a part of American life—from the battle against slavery to the battle against excessive use of alcohol. Yet the debate over our society's moral fiber has picked up recently as Americans increasingly question why they face a host of social problems and how best to deal with them. People are fearful that families and values are disappearing, and they often feel hopeless and powerless. I think the debate is worthwhile and healthy, and indicates that we are on our way to addressing our social ills. People ask me what they can do about declining values. The answer begins with individual responsibility.