

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.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil," said the political leader and writer Edmund Burke, "is for good men to do nothing." Individual responsibility for our own actions and instilling a sense of shared values play a crucial part in solving our country's problems. We need to look for common ground combining the great themes in American values—personal responsibility, freedom, individualism, respect, trustworthiness, fairness and caring. We must return to the ideas of our Founding Fathers who spoke unashamedly of virtue. They understood that without a virtuous people the country does not function well, and that without virtue individuals cannot realize either their own or the common good.

FAMILIES

Central to our efforts to take back our streets, our neighborhoods and our homes is strengthening the family. As Barbara Bush said, "Your success as a family—our success as a society—depends not on what happens at the White House, but on what happens inside your house." Like many Americans, I believe that the breakdown in families is at the root of many of our social ills. I am struck by how, in discussions of wide-ranging public policy questions, we often come back to strengthening the family as the best way to remedy the ills. Questions dealing with values, morals, and character should be addressed first in the family and then in society.

THE COMMUNITY

We need to develop and encourage community institutions that reinforce and strengthen the traditional values. Many familiar institutions work at this everyday—churches, scout groups, service clubs, to name a few. People can contribute in many ways—volunteering at a local Boys or Girls Club, helping out with a church youth group, setting up afterschool programs for "latch-key" kids, or supporting the character education programs that have sprung up to help young people think and talk about moral behavior and core values. In the words of the African proverb, "It takes a whole village to raise a child."

THE GOVERNMENT

Public officials deal with improving values in a variety of ways—from the White House conference on ways to teach character, the Congress struggling to find ways to keep pornography off the Internet, to public calls for teenage curfews and school prayers. Many politicians push government programs to strengthen values, including family and medical leave, earned income tax credits for the working poor, income tax credits for children, anti-crime efforts, and reforming welfare by emphasizing work and responsibility.

I believe that government can solve few of the core cultural issues that bother most Americans, but it can play an important secondary role. Congress can, for example, support local anti-crime efforts or help states improve anti-drug programs, and we should make sure that in the current budget-cutting climate important programs with proven results are not gutted. Lawmakers must also be careful to look at how broad legislation impacts on families, children, community, and values—for example, making sure we assess whether a certain tax policy would tend to strengthen families or weaken them.

CONCLUSION

In talking with many foreign visitors, I find what grips their imagination about America is not our affluence or military power, or even our clogged freeways and high crime rates. What really impresses them are

the values upon which our system is built. These values include not only liberty and individual freedom but also individual responsibility and a sense of community purpose. One visitor said to me the other day that when we as a nation depart from these values, we do so at our peril.

I am encouraged by the increased discussion in our country over character and values, and the consideration of what kind of people we want to be. This country has a marvelous power of self-correction, and my hope is that the process is now underway. A collective effort on the part of individuals, families, communities, and public officials can result in tremendous change. We often think of steps we should take to make America more prosperous. It is even more important to think of ways to make America safe, moral, and just.

A TRIBUTE TO JIM HARKINS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, as chance would have it, the end of 1995 brought about not only the elimination of the Interstate Commerce Commission but the retirement from the Regular Common Carrier Conference [RCCC] of a friend to many of us, Jim Harkins.

While Jim has had a long and distinguished career in the freight transportation industry, including stints in the railroad industry and with a major shipper, many of us first came to know him in his capacity from 1967 through 1985 as executive director of the Traffic Department of the American Trucking Association and of the National Motor Freight Traffic Association. It was probably from Jim that many of us who know anything about freight classification learned it.

In 1985, Jim became executive director of the RCCC. In that capacity, he has been an articulate, knowledgeable, and effective spokesman from the less-than-truckload segment of the motor carrier industry.

Although Jim is leaving RCCC, I am sure that we will continue to hear from him on matters related to freight transportation in this country. I also hope that Jim and his wife Lucille will have more opportunity to enjoy a relaxed life in Maryland and Florida with their four children, and of course, their grandchildren.

It has been indeed a great pleasure for this gentleman from West Virginia to have worked closely with Jim Harkins. On behalf of the many members of the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, and the full Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, who know Jim, I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

MEDICARE REFORM

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues the following two excellent editorials which appeared in the Norfolk Daily News on January 2 and 3, 1996.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Jan. 2, 1996]

MEDICARE OUTLAYS MUST HAVE LIMIT

Medicare was not conceived as a welfare program. But those who now argue for taxpayers to make up any differences between actual costs of Medicare and the premiums that beneficiaries pay are treating it that way.

If a similar philosophy prevails early in the next century when there are too-few workers to sustain benefits at projected levels without turning to Uncle Sam, then Social Security will also be in that "welfare" category.

It is important not to accept either of those programs as general welfare obligations of the U.S. Treasury, financed by taxpayers either through higher taxation or by more borrowing. Social Security and Medicare were conceived as programs that would depend on contributions by the beneficiaries themselves, who could afford to pay the equivalent of insurance premiums during their working years, and, in the case of Medicare, pay modest premiums during retirement.

In the case of Social Security, that has worked. It has been a struggle, however, to make sure that political promises to beneficiaries were matched by legislative action to adjust "premiums"—in the form of payroll taxes—to keep the system solvent. The struggle continues.

More than a difference in total outlays is involved in the contest between the White House plan for Medicare, which proposes spending of \$97 billion less than would otherwise be projected and the plan proposed by Republicans in Congress, which projects spending about \$200 billion less.

The difference is that the GOP plan puts a ceiling on the outlays, and fixed specific dollar amounts that would not be exceeded. That would bar further tapping of taxpayer resources. The White House plan takes a different approach, though also claiming to slow spending growth. It projects some savings but includes no provisions to enforce them. Greater demands on the system than projected would simply be made up by shifting the extra costs to taxpayers at large.

That has become the traditional way for the prevailing majorities in Washington to handle federal programs: Enact a formula for benefits, then tax or borrow to meet the overall demand. Setting and enforcing a ceiling on expenditures has been something to resist.

If that pattern were to be followed in the future in the government's other major insurance program—Social Security—trillions in debt limits would not be enough. The budgeteers would have to begin thinking in quadrillions. Better to fix limits right now.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Jan. 3, 1996]

PLENTY OF BLAME TO GO AROUND

At the Social Security Administration office in the Washington suburb of Woodlawn, Md., 100 of the federal workers idled by the budget impasse staged a small demonstration. "Furlough Newt," proclaimed one of the placards displayed. Another said, "Give Newt the boot, not the loot." Still another was less focused on the speaker, but put the blame on Capitol Hill: "Congress we have a contract with America, too."

If the majority ruled among the elected policymakers in the federal establishment, the conflict which found the government partially shut down would have been resolved quickly. But a congressional majority is not enough. One man's veto—the President's—can mean that a super-majority is needed in Congress if legislators are to work their will.

Speaker Gingrich has attempted to use the congressional majority's power to get the