

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3019, BALANCED BUDGET DOWN PAY- MENT ACT, II

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, we are discussing the fiscal year 1996 omnibus appropriations bill in which an important provision to withhold funding for expanded diplomatic relations with Vietnam until the tyrannical Communist government of Vietnam provides a full accounting of our POW/MIA's was rendered ineffective by compromise language. The original language of the provision, which was co-sponsored by myself and distinguished colleagues, BEN GILMAN, BOB BARR, and JACK KINGSTON, called for the Vietnamese to "fully cooperate" in providing answers to voluminous intelligence reports and analysis in the possession of the United States Department of Defense that is related to more than 400 POW/MIA cases where the service men were last known alive or known to have perished under Vietnamese Government control.

In three hearings before my subcommittee, United States Government analysts repeatedly testified under oath that the United States Government knows that the Vietnamese Government is withholding volumes of records and documents related to missing American heroes in Vietnam and Laos. The words "fully cooperating" was originally accepted by House and Senate appropriations conferees. Tragically this important specific terminology was, at the last minute, watered down to "Elmer Gantryesque" charlatan's rhetoric: "cooperating in full faith." In their needless desperation to cut a deal during the waning hours of negotiations with the White House, congressional negotiators apparently believed that the fate of missing American heroes and the pleas of their families for an honest accounting were an issue to be bartered with the "triple draft-dodger-in-chief."

Mr. Speaker, I am supported by esteemed colleagues and friends such as Senator BOB SMITH and the "Gary Cooper" of this legislative body former POW SAM JOHNSON, in our determination to hold the White House totally culpable. The President must prove, based on United States intelligence analysis in our possession, whether the Vietnamese Government has fully accounted for all POW/MIA cases and returned all remains of fallen heroes in their possession, before any more tax dollars are spent on expanding relations with the brutal and tyrannical Communist dictators in Hanoi.

HONORING THE RICKMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Rickman Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO MARYNEZ TORRES

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to a brave young woman in my district whose quick thinking saved her family.

Ms. Marynez Torres, 15 was baby-sitting her two younger brothers when a fire broke out in the kitchen of the family's home. Unable to extinguish the fire, Ms. Torres rushed her two brothers out of the house to a safe location and dialed "911".

She was recently honored by both the Hodgkins Village board president and the Pleasantview Fire Protection District for her heroic efforts. As Pleasantview Fire Chief Dan Hermes told Ms. Torres, "You did everything right. We thank you for remembering what to do."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ms. Torres for her quick thinking that saved the life of her two brothers.

"WE THE PEOPLE * * * THE CITI- ZEN AND CONSTITUTION" PRO- GRAM

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on April 27-29, 1996, more than 1,300 students from 50 States and the District of Columbia were in Washington, DC to compete in the national finals of the We the People * * * The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from Lawrence Central High School from Indianapolis, represented the 6th district of the State of Indiana. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals by winning local competitions in their home State.

The distinguished members of the team representing Indiana are: Amber Anderson, Carrie Anderson, Heather Bailey, Alicia Crichton, Nathan Criswell, Finda Fallah, Jeremy Freismuth, Lourie Gilbert, Robert Gordon, Phillip Gray, Amanda Gross, Tim Halligan, Lindsey Hamilton, Brandon Hart, Scott King, Brent Patterson, Mike Petro, Megan Pratt, Jason Roberts, Anthony Roque, C. David Smith, Tony Snider, Tomeka Stansberry, Crystal Sullivan, Sarah Thompson, Gene Wagner, Maurice Williams, and Mike Zabst.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Drew Horvath, who deserves much of the credit for the success of the team. The district coordinator, Langdon Healy, and the State coordinator, Robert Leming, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the team reach the national finals.

The We the People * * * The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The 3-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People * * * program, now in its 9th academic year, has reached more than 70,400 teachers, and 22,600,000 students nationwide at the upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers.

The We the People * * * program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history and our lives. I am very proud of the achievements of these students from Lawrence Central High School.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

TRIBUTE TO DALE BROWN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased to rise today in recognition of Ms. Dale P. Brown, a distinguished citizen of Cincinnati.

On Wednesday, May 1, Ms. Brown will receive the prestigious Human Relations Award from the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Jewish Committee, a much deserved honor for all of the work she has done both professionally and for her community.

Ms. Brown has made quite a mark on Cincinnati. As the president and CEO of the Sive/Young & Rubicam advertising firm, Dale Brown has led her company through a period of rapid growth and deep community involvement.

Dale Brown also helped reengineer the United Way "Shaping the Future" Task Force, is the communications chair for the 1996 United Way campaign, and was named a Career Woman of Achievement by the Cincinnati YWCA. And I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Brown, in her role as a founding member of the steering committee of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati, a grassroots group that I organized to fight the war on drugs at the local level.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will join me and the rest of my colleagues in recognizing Dale Brown for all her selfless contributions to her community. Whether leading her business to unprecedented success or volunteering in the fight against teenage drug use, Brown is an inspiration to those around her. Cincinnati is fortunate to have someone of her caliber in our midst.

PRAISING OUR DIPLOMATIC CORPS

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of our Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I have had the unique opportunity to participate in a number of highly sensitive foreign affairs missions. In each of my overseas assignments, I have had the great pleasure of working with exceptional members of our diplomatic corps.

Sadly, the corps is not always appreciated as the State Department has been under siege, even by some Members of this body who seek to undermine the activity of our diplomatic corps to properly represent U.S. interests and citizens overseas.

The work that our diplomats do in representing this country has a profound impact. Their work enables our country to engage in international business, but more importantly, they save our country blood by defusing crises before we need to send our military.

Ambassadors, and indeed our entire diplomatic corps, are our country's first line of defense and are critical to our national security and interest.

Our most able Ambassador to Spain, the Honorable Richard Gardner recently presented

an eloquent case defending and explaining the work of our diplomats. I urge my colleagues to review Ambassador Gardner's March 29, 1996, speech to the American Society of International Law which is excerpted here.

WHO NEEDS AMBASSADORS?

I come to you as a deeply troubled ambassador. I am troubled by the lack of understanding in our country today about our foreign policy priorities and the vital role of our embassies in implementing them. I sometimes think that what our ambassadors and embassies do is one of our country's best kept secrets.

During the Cold War there was also confusion and ignorance, but at least there was bipartisan consensus on the need for American leadership in defending freedom in the world against Soviet aggression and the spread of totalitarian communism.

Much of my work as ambassador to Italy was dominated by this overriding priority. At a time when some Italian leaders were flirting with the compromesso storico—a government alliance between Christian Democrats and an Italian Communist Party still largely oriented toward Moscow—I was able to play a modest role in making sure the Italians understood why the United States opposed the entry of Communist parties into the governments of NATO allies.

When the Soviet Union began threatening Europe by deploying its SS-20 missiles, it was vitally important for NATO to respond by deploying the Pershing 2 and cruise missiles. It soon became clear that the deployment could not occur without a favorable decision by Italy. Our embassy in Rome was able to persuade an Italian Socialist Party with a history of hostility to NATO to do an about-face and vote for the cruise missile deployment in the Italian Parliament along with the Christian Democrats and the small non-communist lay parties.

Some years later Mikhail Gorbachev said it was the NATO decision to deploy the Pershing and cruise missiles—not the Strategic Defense Initiative as some have claimed—that helped bring him to the realization that his country had to move from a policy based on military threats to one of accommodation with the West.

So at the height of the Cold War, it did not take a genius to understand the need for strong U.S. leadership in the world and for effective ambassadors and embassies in support of that leadership.

Today, however, there is no single unifying threat to help justify and define a world role for the United States. As a result, we are witnessing devastating reductions in the State Department budget which covers the cost of our embassies overseas.

Now that there is no longer a Soviet Union and a Communist threat, what is our foreign policy all about? And what is the current need for ambassadors and embassies?

A common refrain heard today is that American foreign policy lacks a single unifying goal and a coherent strategy for achieving it. But precisely because the post Cold War world is so complex, so rapidly evolving, and characterized by so many diverse threats to our interests, it is difficult to encapsulate in one sentence or one paragraph a definition of American foreign policy that has global application.

Perhaps we should start by recalling what our foreign policy was all about before there was a Cold War. It was about trying to create a world in which the American people could be secure and prosperous and see their deeply held values of political and economic freedom increasingly realized in other parts of the world. Well, that is still the purpose of our foreign policy today.

Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, with broad bipartisan support from

Republicans like Wendell Willkie and Arthur Vandenberg, sought to implement these high purposes with a policy of practical internationalism, which I define as working with other countries in bilateral, regional and global institutions to advance common interests in peace, welfare and human rights.

Our postwar "founding fathers" in both political parties understood the importance of military power and the need to act alone if necessary in defense of U.S. interests. But they also gave us the United Nations, the Bretton Woods organizations, GATT, the Marshall Plan, NATO and the Point Four program as indispensable instruments for achieving our national purposes in close cooperation with others.

We are working with host governments to restore momentum to the endangered Middle East peace process by mobilizing international action against the Hamas terrorists and their supporters, providing technical assistance and economic aid to the Palestinian authority, encouraging the vital Syrian-Israeli negotiations, and promoting regional Middle East economic development.

We have been consulting with key European governments such as Spain as well as with the EU Commission in Brussels on how to bring a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba.

On the second priority: confronting the new transnational threat:

Having worked successfully with our host governments for the unconditional and indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty—a major diplomatic achievement—we are focusing now on building support for a Comprehensive Test Ban Agreement, on keeping weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of countries like Iran, Iraq and Libya, and on securing needed European financial contributions for the Korean Energy Development Organization, an essential vehicle for terminating North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

We are working to strengthen bilateral and multilateral arrangements to assure the identification, extradition and prosecution of persons engaged in drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and alien smuggling, and we are building European support for new institutions to train law enforcement officers in former Communist countries, such as the International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest.

And we are giving a new priority in our diplomacy to the protection of the global environment, coordinating our negotiating positions and assistance programs on such issues as population, climate change, ozone depletion, desertification, and marine pollution. For we have learned that environmental initiatives can be vitally important to our goals of prosperity and security: negotiations on water resources are central to the Middle East peace process, and a Haiti denuded of its forests will have a hard time supporting a stable democracy and keeping its people from flooding our shores.

On the third priority: promoting open markets and prosperity:

Having worked with our host countries to bring a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round, we are now busily engaged in discussing left-over questions like market access for audiovisuals, telecommunications, and bio-engineered foods, and new issues like trade and labor standards, trade and environment, and trade and competition policy.

We are also encouraging the enlargement of the European Union to Central and Eastern Europe and we are reporting carefully on the prospects of the European Monetary Union by the target date of 1999 and on the implications of an EMU for U.S. interests.

In carrying out this rich global foreign policy agenda we will be greatly assisted by the