

passed a resolution in 1952—and will welcome the many visitors to our Nation's Capital who come to pray for you.

As always, I commend Wanda K. Wigley for making the Mississippi National Day of Prayer a priority in our State. God bless America, guard us and guide us, and give our Nation peace.

IN HONOR OF SAM GIBBONS

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our distinguished colleague, Mr. GIBBONS. The unwavering determination and fighting spirit of this war hero and political hero will be sorely missed when he leaves this body.

Appointed to the chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee in the 103d Congress, his tenure was much too brief. Congressman GIBBONS currently serves as the ranking Democratic Member.

First elected to Congress in 1962, which makes him a Member of this House for more than three decades, Mr. GIBBONS is never far from the action—in fact, we usually can find him right in the middle of it. This Congress he has been a noted and passionate defender of Medicare and Medicaid, school lunches and a welfare system that creates long-term solutions to the cycle of poverty.

The Member from Tampa has a long history of shepherding domestic programs through the House. In the 1960's, President Johnson entrusted SAM to manage on the floor much of his Great Society Program, which included the very successful Head Start and Job Corps Programs.

Congressman GIBBONS has served his country for all of his adult life, beginning with his valiant service in World War II, when he parachuted into France the night before the Normandy invasion and received a Bronze Star for his heroic efforts.

Congressman GIBBONS's contributions to this House are legion. We will miss particularly his spirit, his tenacity, his humor, and his commitment to improving our country. I join with all of my colleagues in wishing our friend well as he moves on to his next challenge.

INJURED FEDERAL WORKERS

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I have recently introduced three bills, along with my colleague from Washington, Representative JENNIFER DUNN. These bills, H.R. 3203, H.R. 3204, and H.R. 3205, would, if enacted, make only minor changes to our labor law, yet will provide major changes in the quality of the lives of many who serve this Nation as employees of the Federal Government. These bills not only continue this Congress' effort to force the Federal Government to conform to the laws that apply to all other citizens in this great country, but also bring additional accountability to one

of our Government's largest Federal bureaucracies, the Department of Labor.

Mr. Speaker, of all the worker's compensation programs nationwide, only the Federal Government's does not allow for judicial review of cases to insure fair and equitable access and redress. Although proposals have been introduced in the past to address this question, the opportunity for success in this endeavor has never been greater. The culture of Congress has changed, and with this change, there is a newfound persistence in finding innovative solutions to vexing problems which previously were more easily buried or ignored.

H.R. 3205 not only provides a more equitable review process, but also provides reasonable time limitations in their deliberation. This bill expedites the initial decision process, eliminates the practice of redundant second opinions without legitimate legal or medical provocation, and provides the opportunity for claimants to have their own physician or representative present during the examinations. These provisions will significantly reduce the size of the quiet second opinions cottage industry that has developed in the wake of cases lasting up to 10 years, ruining the lives of the injured employees, and costing the Federal Government hundreds of millions of dollars.

Additionally, H.R. 3205 requires the Secretary of Labor to fix physician fees at a level comparable to the limits placed on fees charged by the claimants own physicians. By equalizing compensation levels and structures, Federal workers can be assured that they are getting a fair hearing with honorable medical representation.

Finally, H.R. 3205 requires the Secretary of Labor to provide reemployment and vocational skill training to injured workers to quickly return the injured employee to the workplace. Federal employees are valuable assets to the Federal Government, with millions of dollars spent every year in training. It makes little sense to waste the capabilities of these workers developed over years of experiences in the Federal workplace by forcing them to sit on the sideline, and in many cases, extract millions more from the Federal Government through disability and other compensation.

H.R. 3203 and H.R. 3204 are bills with similar purposes, to streamline and expedite the workers compensation policies of the Federal Government to provide fair and equitable access for all workers. Specifically, H.R. 3203 would require that in cases requiring a second opinion, that physician will be selected on an impartial basis. H.R. 3204 would require that physicians selected to provide medical opinions be board certified in the medical specialty which is being called into question. Mr. Speaker, you would be surprised to learn that despite repeated attempts by my office to have the agency in question voluntarily modify this practice, my constituents continue to be diagnosed by physicians with no certification to diagnose injuries of the nature in dispute.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, these bills are commonsense solutions to very specific problems. They are not legitimately controversial, and will truly make a legitimate difference in the lives of the hard-working Federal employees who provide valuable and necessary Government services. Besides the relatively mundane Federal workers that staff our bureaucracies, these unsung heroes also include the

valiant members of Border Patrol agents, Federal Firefighters, U.S. Marshals, Drug Enforcement Agents, and the Secret Service who put their lives and bodies in harm's way every day.

Representative DUNN and I are committed to expediting the journey of these bills to the floor of the House of Representatives, and I urge the committee of jurisdiction to examine these issues in the context of this year's hearings, and move forward as quickly as possible.

HOOSIER BUSINESS GROWTH

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, April 24, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

HOOSIER BUSINESS GROWTH

When politicians and the media talk about the economy, they tend to focus on the big, negative stories. Everyone has heard about how major corporations like IBM and AT&T are laying off workers in an attempt to downsize and become more competitive. Hoosiers have not been immune to such news. Recently Colgate in Clarksville and Randall Textron in Switzerland County, among others, have announced layoff plans. News like that causes all workers to feel anxious about their job security and the future. Hoosiers, however, should take some comfort that the Indiana economy has improved and is generating thousands of new jobs.

CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In recent years the unemployment rate in Indiana has been consistently lower than the national average, and the earnings of Hoosier workers have grown faster than in the rest of the country. At the end of 1995, the unemployment rate in the state was 4.6%, compared to 5.6% nationally. Economists tell us that the Indiana economy is operating at near full capacity, inflation is in check, and interest rates are low. In 1995, more than 50,000 net jobs were created in Indiana, and Hoosiers' real earnings grew by 3.4%, well ahead of the national average of 2.1%. Leading the way in job and earnings growth was the manufacturing sector, with a 7% increase in employment and a 6.6% increase in earnings.

The performance of the economy in the 96th District mirrors that of the state as a whole. The manufacturing sector is the single largest employer in our part of the state, and other important sectors are retail trade, services, construction, and agriculture. The I-65 corridor from Columbus to the Ohio River is one of the fastest growing areas in the state. Small businesses, in particular, are playing a major role in the expansion and diversification of southern Indiana's economy. Indeed, small businesses are the backbone of the U.S. economy as a whole, responsible for generating the majority of all new jobs. There are almost 6 million small businesses in the U.S. today, employing more than 92 million workers. In Indiana alone, 129,000 small businesses employ more than 2.1 million Hoosiers.

EXPANDING BUSINESSES

Helping the economy of the 9th District has been one of my priorities, and I want to share with you a few of the stories I have heard recently about companies that are doing well, expanding, and creating jobs in the region.

Companies involved in the auto industry have been particularly successful in creating jobs. In Perry County a company that makes castings for auto and machine parts, as well as engine supports, recently invested \$60 million in a 200,000 sq. ft. facility, creating 220 new jobs. In Switzerland County a company is expanding its manufacturing facility to make a brake system component for General Motors, creating up to 100 new jobs. In Jefferson County a company that makes die castings for the auto industry recently invested \$14 million to expand its operation, creating 100 new jobs. In Clark County a Houston-based company announced plans to build a \$12.5 million plant at the Clark Maritime Centre that will produce thermal plastic resins for the auto and appliance manufacturing industries, creating 72 new jobs. At the Northern Industrial Park in Scottsburg a new company will produce plastic-injection components for the auto, appliance, and electronics industries and will create 60 new jobs over 3 years.

Manufacturing companies other than those involved in the auto industry are also doing well. In Jeffersonville the country's largest inland shipbuilder recently received its biggest order since World War II. The ships are to be built between now and 1999, and at least 250 new jobs will be created to fill the order. In Perry County a furniture manufacturer recently increased its plant capacity, creating 60 new jobs. In Ripley County another furniture maker specializing in entertainment centers plans to expand production and create 45 new jobs by June.

It is not just manufacturing companies that are succeeding in the 9th District. In Jeffersonville a trucking company is investing \$17.5 million to enlarge its truck fleet and real estate holding and to update its terminal. It will purchase 285 new trucks and add 200-300 new jobs. In Jennings County a Texas-based company is constructing a \$35 million indoor shrimp-breeding facility, creating 40 new jobs once it is fully operational. In Floyd County an operator of consumer merchandise rent-to-own stores reported record results in 1995, with revenues up 35% over 1994.

Some large corporations are also playing a positive role in the region. For example, Toyota recently announced its plans to build a new \$700 million truck assembly plant in Gibson County, which will create hundreds of well-paying jobs throughout southern Indiana. Hyatt is building a 118,000 sq. ft. entertainment pavilion and 200 room hotel along the river in Ohio County. That project should create about 3,000 new jobs. Similar entertainment projects are underway in other counties.

HELPING BUSINESS GROWTH

Local business and community leaders certainly take the lead in boosting job growth, but there are several ways the federal government can help.

Because small businesses are the engine of growth, we have to find ways to help make them be more competitive. One step is to make sure that affordable financing is available to them, through the private sector and the Small Business Administration. In addition, we must continue to reduce the federal budget deficit. We have cut the deficit in half in the last four years, and bringing it down further will help keep interest rates low and make it less expensive for businesses to borrow. We also have to continue reducing unnecessary, burdensome regulations that impose unreasonable costs on small businesses, and we should reform the tax code so it encourages greater investment and savings.

At the same time, we need to increase the quality of the workforce by investing in the

education and skills training necessary to make Hoosiers competitive in today's economy. Finally, we should invest in affordable housing and in improving the local infrastructure, particularly roads, bridges, local airports, and water systems. A strong infrastructure helps to attract and maintain jobs in Hoosier communities.

CONCLUSION

There is no higher priority for me than helping to expand job growth and opportunity in southern Indiana. I am immensely pleased with the progress recently made. Working together, there is a lot we can do to ensure that the local economy remains healthy for years to come.

DAWNING OF A NEW ERA

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, there is a great appreciation in our country for hard work and diligence. Those who exhibit those characteristics are usually held in the highest regard. Not everyone achieves the recognition of hard work and diligence on their own. Rather, they earn it through a combination of their own efforts with the willingness of others to provide meaningful opportunities.

The Opportunities Industrialization Center of Metropolitan Saginaw has for the past 26 years scrupulously followed its philosophy of "helping people to help themselves." Thanks to the hard work of Rev. Roosevelt Austin, S., and Martin H. Stark, in cooperation with local businesses like General Motors, Dow Chemical, and Dow Corning, more than 10,000 young men and women have been given a renewed opportunity to show that they can be successful members of society, an inspiration to their communities, and find a new sense of self-worth.

This weekend, OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw will be celebrating the grand opening of its new facility, boasting 14 classrooms including a science lab, a day care center, dining facilities, a 250 seat auditorium, a library, and other impressive resources. It is a true tribute to Frederick D. Ford, who took over as executive director of OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw, 22 years ago, and created the vision of a state of the art building that would provide the combination of resources needed for a successful job training and development program.

This building and OIC shows what can happen when visionary individuals have the opportunity to combine public support, garnered by building fund campaign chairman Henry G. Marsh, with that of State and Federal Government assistance to create the kind of program for which we have even a greater need. Money from the Job Training Partnership Act and the Department of Housing and Urban Development leveraged private donations to create this magnificent facility. People are eagerly looking forward to this new building which will continue the impressive record of accomplishment earned by OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw.

People of all ages will benefit from this facility that will be able to provide them with the best possible training using the most modern techniques and equipment. The high national rankings earned by OIC of Metropolitan Sagi-

naw will continue to pour in, I am sure, as those who support OIC set their sights on even newer challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me and OIC national founder Rev. Leon Sullivan in wishing the OIC of Metropolitan Saginaw every success for its future, and congratulations on its most recent accomplishment.

19 MEMBERS OF CROATIAN FRATERNAL LODGE CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate 19 outstanding individuals who are celebrating 50 years of membership in the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 170. The festivities will begin this Sunday, May 5, with a mass at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Gary, IN, followed by a banquet at Lodge 170 in Merrillville, IN. The esteemed guest speaker at this celebratory event will be the Hon. John Buncich, Sheriff of Lake County, IN.

At this time, I would like to recognize the following members who be will honored on Sunday for their 50 years of membership in the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 170: Rosemary Adams, Bryan Magdaline; John V. Chelich; Alvin Eugene Erbesti; Lillian Gorski; Andy Horvatic; Pauline Jocha; Mary Klen; Francis Medved; Jennie Miller; Anna Mordi; Rosemary Petrovich; John Pitula; Shirley Pollizatto; Robert Razumich; Anne Wagner; Catherine Yavor; Catherine Zitz; and Christine Zivcic. These 19 members of Lodge 170 have lived up to the highest ideals of their solidarity with the people of Croatia and service to the Croatian-American population.

I would also like to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Morgavan, who has served as president of Lodge 170 for over 10 years. As an honorary lifetime member, she has dedicated her efforts to all facets of the Croatian Fraternal Union. In 1992, Elizabeth was named "Woman of the Year" by her peers at Lodge 170 for the countless hours she has dedicated to various projects and programs within the Lodge and the Croatian-American community.

Over the years, it has been my privilege and honor to work with the membership of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 170. They have, in no uncertain terms, played a key role in promoting fraternal and cultural activity among the Croatian-American population of northwest Indiana. Lodge 170, the largest Croatian Fraternal Union lodge in the United States, has provided its many members with opportunities to share their ethnic heritage with their fellow countrymen. More importantly, Lodge 170 has provided social assistance and insurance benefits for its members, as well as other Croatian-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other colleagues to join me in commending the dedication and longevity of all those who have served for 50 years as members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 170.