

into our State. He will shut down the Government unless we agree to let people who have never paid into the system receive Social Security benefits, that he is going to shut down the government unless illegal aliens get the same tuition as local residents.

Whose side is he on? What he is doing tonight is adding injury to insult. The insult is that he lied to us in the first place. The injury is that we have a wonderful immigration bill, something that will come to grips with this terrible problem that is threatening the well-being of our citizens, and he is threatening to close down the Government unless we trash that bill. The people of California had better understand what is going on here.

We have a Democratic process. This is still a democracy. The news media has not been doing their job in getting the word out, but tonight this act is so blatant I do not even believe that the news media ignoring it is going to be able to cover up this wrongdoing that the President is involved with.

As I say, Mr. Speaker, I am a little bit upset, people can see that, but my people are hurting, as the gentleman from California [Mr. BILBRAY] said. In San Diego, in Orange County, in Los Angeles County, all throughout California, people are sending their kids to school and their kids are not getting an education, because we have \$2 billion a year that we have to spend on kids who just came from a foreign country. They might be good kids, but we have to care about our own kids.

Mr. Speaker, here we have a chance to come to grips with that, and the President is threatening to close down the Government unless we back down. It is just absolutely a terrible thing. ELTON GALLEGLY who has worked all of these years to accomplish this, you probably feel worse than I do, ELTON. It is just beyond me.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his fire tonight. I think he should be angry more.

I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN].

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, in my district is a city named after the grandmother of Jesus Christ, Santa Ana, St. Ann. In this city, which once won the all-American city award, and it is an all-American city, we have people living in garages, illegal aliens, and as my colleague, the gentleman from California, DANA ROHRBACHER said, good people fleeing a socialist government. It has had one corrupt government following another for all of my life in poor, politically ridden Mexico. But they live 14, 15, in one case the police officers of Santa Ana told me 18 people to a garage, the garage; who knows how many in the house.

They have a crack house three blocks from the civic center, which is the civic center for DANA ROHRBACHER's district, CHRIS COX's district. That is where they are going to complete next year the Ronald Reagan Courthouse, a

civic center for six Congressmen here, ED ROYCE, RON PACKARD, part of JAY KIM's, DANA's, mine, and CHRIS COX's district.

Three blocks on Third Street from that district is a crack house that when I was doing a ridealong in a police car, I asked this black belt police officer to stop. I said, if we put that in a movie, if an art director finished that as a movie set and said, there is your crack house, a good director would reject it as ridiculous looking, too colorful; graffiti from the grass level to the eaves of the roof. It would be absurd. Yet, we have these crack houses, very close to neighborhoods where you see little children and perambulators around.

What we are asking, what the citizens, the Hispanic heritage citizens who are legal, the second, third, fourth, fifth, and tenth generation Hispanic Americans in California are asking for, is fairness. We are bankrupting every citizen, including Hispanic American citizens, and we must have relief.

I cannot see the bull ring, of course, in Tijuana, as the gentleman from California [Mr. BILBRAY] can, but you can drive around some nights and hear gunfire in Santa Ana. The crime is going up, and get this, some illegal aliens form gangs to protect themselves from the Lobos, or the American Hispanic gangs, because they do not think the illegals can go to the police, so they are preyed upon, murdered and beaten up by other gangs. It is mess.

For the arrogance of this man, who I will do 47½ minutes on, after the gentleman from New York, [Mr. OWENS] does his 47½ minutes, we will end at midnight here, the title of my speech will be, Follow the Money and Look at the Nose; follow the money, Whitewater, and look at the swelling red nose, and I will tell you what causes that before we close out at midnight.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, let me just end by saying I really and truly feel for my colleagues in California and their constituent, and I hope all of their colleagues paid attention to this special order tonight, because they are right on the money. It is an absolute tragedy what this President is perpetrating on this country and particularly the citizens of California.

We need immigration reform. We should not be using Americans taxpayers' dollars to pay all of their bills, to the detriment of all of your citizens in California.

THE CLOSING DAYS OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 47 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, these are the closing days of the 104th Congress. I just wanted to again congratulate the American people or their common sense.

As we close out the 104th Congress, the situation in American political life is very different from what it was when we opened up the 104th Congress in January 1995. These are the closing days. It is important to note that we are going through the process of a large number of suspension bills. The public does not understand that fully.

Suspension bills means that we suspend the rules and do not follow the rules. These are not bills that have necessarily gone through the full procedure. They are expected to be so popular that there will be overwhelming approval, to the point where two-thirds of the people will vote for them and they will be able to pass.

The suspension process this year, large numbers of suspension bills at the very end of the session, is fraught with danger, because the abuse of the rules that has gone on all year in the 104th Congress is also taking place here, with some very important items that are being slipped into some of the suspension bills. That is nothing new. The abuse of the rules is one of the characteristics of the 104th Congress.

The biggest action is yet to come, in the next day or two. We hope tomorrow the continuing resolution will be on the floor. That continuing resolution will take all of the agencies and programs that have not yet had appropriations bills passed and lump them all together in one resolution, and will go forward, I hope, without having the agony of a shutdown.

I think my colleagues who spoke earlier, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] did a very good summary of the highlights of what has happened during the past year. They talked at some length about the agony of the shutdown of the Government because of the refusal to deal with the budget in a responsible way by the 104th Congress.

The Republican majority of the 104th Congress will go down in history as being one of the most unreasonable groups. They sought revolution through a budget process. They sought to blackmail and force the President to do something that should have been debated, discussed, and negotiated.

Despite all that, we have something big we hope to celebrate when this continuing resolution comes forward. There are rumors, and I hope that they are true, that within the continuing resolution that is coming there may not only be a sustenance here, maintenance of some very vital programs that we feared might be cut, but there may be some increases in the budget for very important programs, especially in education.

There is a rumor that at least \$1 billion in increases will take place with respect to education programs, and maybe more. That is something to celebrate. The 104th Congress can go out celebrating the fact that it found its way. It got lost for a while, the Republican majority was lost, and they came

into the 104th Congress insisting that the Department of Education should be eradicated. They attacked education programs across the board: student loans, Head Start. There was nothing that was sacred enough for them to leave it alone in terms of budget cuts.

That is a fantastic turnaround. It ought to be celebrated. I congratulate the Republican majority for seeing the light. But it really is a result of the American people's common sense manifesting itself.

What I really want to do is congratulate the American people again for their common sense. In our polling procedures now that move so rapidly, we are able to determine what people are thinking very rapidly. We do a lot of studying of polls, and there are focus groups beyond the polls, and various other devices to measure what people are thinking.

So what you are thinking as a public gets measured rapidly, regularly, and congratulate you on the fact that you have indicated that some of the extremist actions taken by this 104th Congress are totally unacceptable, are repugnant, and they have responded. What they have done or proposed to do to education you indicated was totally unacceptable, and the biggest turnaround of the Republican majority in this 104th Congress has been its position on education.

If it is true, and I think it is, that we may have a large increase in the Federal assistance to education, then I am happy that they did turn around. I hope we can go back to a policy of bipartisan support for education programs.

While we may be able to celebrate the increase in education programs, we must mourn the eradication of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children. If there is a low point to be identified unquestionably, the lowest point in the 104th Congress is the eradication of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children, which is a part of the Social Security Act, by the way. It has existed for 61 years, since Franklin Delano Roosevelt initiated the New Deal, as part of the Social Security Act, which most people do not understand. Aid to Families with Dependent Children is part of the Social Security Act. Medicare is part of the Social Security Act. Medicaid is the part of the Social Security Act.

□ 2230

When you worry about what is going to happen with Social Security, your worry is well-placed. You should worry. Because if we are going to take away the entitlement for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, take away the entitlement which says that any children who are poor in America, and they can meet the means test—it is a means-tested program—they deserve the help that their government can give. They are entitled to it. There cannot be any negotiation, there cannot be any favoritism shown by States

or local governments. They are entitled to it. Entitlement means just what it says.

Well, that is gone. That is gone. We did not have welfare reform. We had the eradication of a very vital part of the Social Security Act, the eradication of Aid to Families with Dependent Children. That is the low point. We must mourn that just as we celebrate the fact that there has been a turnaround in education programs.

The 104th Congress opened with a bang, and it is closing with a whimper. That is because again the American people had the common sense to see that this is an extremist majority. The Republican majority moved with great extremism. It was not so much in their Contract With America, where they at least had written down what they were going to do, tried to reshape that, but it is all the other things that were not in the contract that they came on so strongly with that led to the opening of the eyes of the American people, with the help of the Democratic minority.

We helped to open the eyes of the American people, we helped to bring forth the common sense of the American people by highly visible efforts to expose what was going on here. We had an unprecedented set of actions which showed our resistance to the extremism, and the response of the American people was to understand better what is going on here.

So we are closing with a whimper because the American people understood. We are closing with a whimper because the Democratic minority took the case to the American people, and enabled them to understand and, in their understanding, they showed they were disappointed and revolted by certain things that were going on.

I understand a large number of Republicans are now carrying ice buckets around, and the Speaker of the House was on television citing as one of his great achievements the ending of the practice of delivering ice daily in the House of Representatives. I want to congratulate the Speaker. I think that in the age of refrigerators, as he said, we do not really need to have ice delivered every day. And that was a good reform. So congratulations, Mr. Speaker.

The 104th Congress, Republican majority, will be known for its ice delivery policy. If we are going to carry ice buckets around, we might join you. It is a good policy, your ice delivery policy, and the Speaker said maybe they saved \$200,000 between the ending of delivery of ice and the privatization of the barber shops and beauty parlors.

He might have saved \$200,000, but he added \$13 billion to the defense budget; \$13 billion more than the President wanted was added to the defense budget. So I think your common sense, the common sense of the American people can look at the saving of money on items which agreeably were obsolete, the delivery of ice. But on the other hand, adding \$13 billion to the budget

when the President, the Commander in Chief of the country, said we do not need it, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a whole lot of other people saying we do not need certain items in this budget and they kept adding those items, so the waste goes on despite the fact that we have a new ice delivery policy.

So congratulations on the ice delivery policy. Let us look at a more practical way at where we are wasting money by adding to the defense budget things that the military experts say we definitely do not need.

The Republican majority will also be remembered for its honesty. I want to congratulate them on their honesty and their openness. They did not camouflage their intentions. They came on very strong, highly visible with their policy. They were highly visible with their intent to wipe out organized labor. They did not mince words and their actions showed that they were going to wipe out the benefits that organized labor and workers—let us forget about organized labor, because the benefits that workers have gained are spread throughout, whether you are in a union shop or not. OSHA is a benefit you have. The Occupational Health and Safety Agency benefits all workers, and an attempt to wipe that agency out or bring it to its knees and throttle its effectiveness would have hurt all workers.

They attempted to bring the National Labor Relations Board to its knees. On and on it goes. One of the chief advocates of getting rid of OSHA even said openly in the Washington Post that he had promised businessmen in his State that he would do it and he was rewarded with an immediate set of contributions from the businessmen in his State of \$65,000. So it was quite a phenomenon. They were honest, they have been honest. And by being honest, they have presented the American people with some clear choices.

The 104th Congress Democratic minority continued to have faith in the common sense of the American people and not mourn its loss of power. It might have been a bit mournful in the first 3 or 4 months. We did not quite know what to do, it seemed. But I think that the Democratic minority is to be congratulated.

Our leadership under Minority Leader GEPHARDT was fantastic in rallying the troops and probably the turnaround point in this 104th Congress came in the summer of 1995, when the horror of the Republican extremists came home to the American people because the members of the Education Committee, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities they call it now, the members put up a resistance to the cuts in the school lunch program.

The school lunch programs was a first battleground, the first time we took the battle to the American people in a highly visible way, about \$2 billion over the 7 years of the budget period that was being proposed to the year

2002, \$2 billion would have been gained from savings on the backs of the little children in America who use the school lunch program.

That \$2 billion was slated to go into the infamous Republican majority's tax cut fund. They needed large amounts of money, \$2 billion was just a drop in the bucket, and before it is over they were going to need something like close to \$300 billion, the latest scale back, but large amounts of money were needed to provide a tax cut to the few.

The Republican majority made it clear from the very beginning that they were the government of the elite, that they had no qualms about proposing public policies which would benefit a small group of Americans, those who already have the largest amount of the wealth in the country. They own most of the wealth; 10 percent of the people own 90 percent of the wealth. You have this terrible gap that has been growing between the richest Americans and the poorest Americans. It used to be that Great Britain had that kind of gap with its lords and ladies and landed gentry, but America, the home of the brave, the land of the free, where the common man can get ahead and so forth. All of a sudden we are among the industrialized nations of the world the very worst in terms of the gap between the rich and the poor. The gap is bigger in America now than it is anywhere else in the world. That is most unfortunate.

But we had in the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities resisted the cuts. I just want to remind us, none of us should forget that 1 year ago, about this time, Federal education programs were facing a \$4 billion cut. Among the cuts that we were facing was a cut in the school lunch program.

The records in our heads should be corrected to show that it was the fight against cuts in the school lunch programs, led by members of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, which began to change the public opinion polls in favor of the Democrats in Congress. The model of highly visible and personalized resistance used to fight the school lunch cuts was later adopted by the Medicare and Medicaid campaigns to stop the cuts. We used the same approach in terms of going straight to the people, getting examples of how people were going to be hurt, just as we had gone to school lunchrooms and talked to children, eaten lunch with children and dramatized for the American people the fact that this was the kind of cut we did not need.

The fight for aid to education was the pivotal point in the war to take back the Congress. In those days, in the summer of 1995, we did despair sometimes, it was difficult to believe that the American people were going to come to our rescue, we did not understand how strong the tradition of common sense is out there among our people and how they would definitely rise to the occasion.

At that time, I remember on Tuesday, April 4, one of the low points in the discussion, the swindle of the children's lunches, I entered into the RECORD the following notation with a little rap poem.

I said:

The very conservative but thorough Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the Republicans will capture slightly more than \$2 billion from their block-granted School Lunch Program. This will be \$2 billion more to go into the tax cut for the rich. This is a scenario filled with horror. It conjures up the image of the poster where Uncle Sam is pointing his finger and saying to potential military recruits: "I need you." While the Republicans advocate a \$50 billion increase in the defense budget—at that time it was \$50 billion—and turn their backs on welfare for corporations and rich farmers, they are saying to the children of America: "This Nation needs your lunch."

Kids of America

There is a fiscal crunch

This great Nation

Now needs your lunch

To set

The budget right

Go hungry

For one night

Don't eat

What we could save

Be brave

Patriots stand out

Above the bunch

Proudly surrender lunch

There is a fiscal crunch

This Nation needs your lunch

Pledge allegiance to the flag

Mobilize your own brown bag

The enemy deficit

Must be defeated

Nutrition suicide squads

Are desperately needed

Kids of America

There is a fiscal crunch

This great Nation

Now needs your lunch.

We had to resort to a little humor to save our souls during those difficult days, to keep our spirits up because it was the kind of horror we never expected to experience. And the American people felt the same way. They reacted with great horror and immediately there was a chain reaction that was set in motion about the cuts in education programs in general. Every education cut aroused great indignation and we began to move in a way which has resulted in our being able to celebrate at this time the fact that a proposed \$1 billion increase is about to take place, more than a \$1 billion increase in education programs.

We are moving toward a pivotal election, and it is very important that this common sense not lose focus. It is very important that the blitzkrieg that is coming, of advertisements on television, all kinds of devices will be used to try to confuse the American people, that we keep our sense of direction and understand that we still need to close the income gap, we still have a problem with income stagnation, it has to be halted. We still have a problem with

the elitism, the idea that it is quite all right for 10 percent of Americans to own 90 percent of the wealth. That still must end. We still need a more creative taxation policy. I have talked about all these things during the course of this 104th Congress and I want to reemphasize the fact that they are still relevant.

We have a good report also that came from the Census Bureau. They recently reported, I think today or yesterday, that household income is up, family income is up, people in poverty have gone down, the poverty rate is down, the elderly poverty rate is down, the child poverty rate is down. But when you look at their statement, you will find that they are down by very small amounts and the great celebration and the reason that the Census Bureau is trumpeting these new figures and the reason that the Democrats are now trumpeting them is that it has been so long since we had any increases. A typical household's income is up \$898 in 1995. That is the largest increase in the whole decade. It is not much money, \$898 will not close the income gap. It will not really compensate for all the income stagnation that has taken place. But it is the only increase we have had in the last 10 years, in the last decade. The same thing is true of the family income going up and the poverty rate going down. It is small figures, there is no great deal of change to report, but the fact that change has taken place at all is something to celebrate and certainly the Clinton economic policy can take credit for what is happening.

The Democratic Family First initiative insist that we continue to do the kind of things that were initiated by President Clinton in his first 2 years. The economic policy which was certainly buttressed by a bill that not a single Republican voted for, that economic policy must continue.

□ 2245

Our Family First initiatives dealing with economics and job creation, our family first initiatives which deal with education, are all designed to guarantee that this forward increase in terms of economic benefits and growth will continue.

Mr. Speaker, we were cut down because of the division in time. I am going to wind up in a few minutes, because I want to share the time and yield to my colleague from Illinois, Mr. JACKSON, for a tribute to one of our departing members. I emphasize he has not departed, he is departing. He will rise again. In fact, he has not disappeared from the public scene. He will be here for a long time and doing magnificent work.

I will close now by saying that it is important to keep our perspective and keep the common sense of the American people focused. We have learned a lot this past year. We are grateful for the fact that the Republican majority in their extremism made everything

crystal clear, and that our response to it, by taking it beyond the halls of this House and exposing it, allowed the American people to see what was going on. Therefore, we are coming to the end of this session in a very different spirit than the way we started it.

I want to just give a few examples of where we have to go in the future. The President talks about building bridges to the future. We must understand that we are going to have to be bold, and the 105th Congress is going to have to behave very differently, and the next 2 years must be different. In building the bridge to the future, we should not hesitate to rely on the examples of the past.

I was looking the other day at a documentary about the West. When they talked about the building of the railroads and how the building of railroads was critical in making our Nation one nation, really from the Atlantic to the Pacific we became one nation only as a result of the railroads.

The railroads were a highly subsidized venture. The railroads involved Government to a great degree. Government and private enterprise worked hand-in-hand, with the Government supplying the contracts and the private enterprise doing all of its usual tricks, including California having hired an expert to declare certain land was mountainous when it was really not mountainous so they would get a higher rate.

Another example is Congress working to establish land granted colleges across the Nation. It was a huge program that has a great benefit and made a big difference in this country, just as the GI bill later on was a large Government program which focused on education and had a great benefit.

We have a telecommunications revolution coming now, and we hope that we are going to move forward in the age of telecommunications and hear the President's initiatives on education in light of the fact that the opportunities for jobs will come through the telecommunications revolution. The next 105th Congress should be about jobs, jobs, and jobs, and education of course is inextricably interwoven into any attempt to create jobs in this very complex, modern economy of ours.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I want to change for us and yield for a tribute to our departing member of Congress, one in particular, but I just want to note we have several in the Congressional Black Caucus who are departing.

I would like to note we are going to very much miss HAROLD FORD of Tennessee. Earlier there was a discussion on Mr. FORD's achievements. I happen to come from the same hometown. I represent New York now, but I was born in Memphis, TN, where HAROLD FORD has represented the people of Memphis ably for a long time.

We also have departing CARDISS COLLINS, who is the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. She has done a magnifi-

cent job of maintaining the resistance, speaking out loudly, clearly, in a highly visible fashion, to keep the American people informed as to what is going on there, excellent leadership by CARDISS COLLINS.

BARBARA ROSE COLLINS is departing, from Michigan; and we earlier lost Kweisi Mfume from Maryland; and we are also now going to discuss Mr. CLEO FIELDS. CLEO is very special in many ways. I like to remind people that one of my favorite education programs is called the TRIO program. CLEO is a product of that program. He is an alumnus of that program. The TRIO program provides special attention for youngsters to guide them into a college career. It creates a whole environment as well as inspiring them. It provides tutors and practical steps toward entering college. CLEO is one of their alumni. They can be very proud of him.

CLEO, in the face of adversity, brought on by the fact that suddenly America has decided that drawing districts which don't look aesthetically beautiful is not good. Since the history of the country, we have always had strange-shaped districts for Congress. But all of a sudden the Supreme Court says if a district looks strange, they want to examine the district and see if race had anything to do with it.

Race has always had a great deal to do with drawing of districts all across the country. It is nothing new. It just so happens we are open and honest about the fact that you need to draw some districts and a way to correct the past imbalances and the past injustices, and the honesty has led to a change in policy which put CLEO's district on the line. He has been undaunted and kept going in the face of that, provided great leadership in a number of different areas, including the fight to bring relief to the black churches that are burning across the Nation and to guide us into some kind of policy of resistance on that issue, as well as many others.

Mr. Speaker, I salute CLEO FIELDS. As I said before, he is not departed, he is departing. He will rise again. He will maintain his visibility in public life.

At this point I would like to yield to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. JACKSON] to carry on the rest of the special order.

(Mr. JACKSON of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MICA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today we come today to celebrate the outstanding work of the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana, the Honorable CLEO FIELDS. I am honored

to be joined on this occasion by several Members of Congress who will be participating in this special order.

I certainly want to take this opportunity to thank Congressman OWENS from New York for his outstanding leadership on a myriad of issues. I also want to thank him for allowing us the privilege, as this 104th Congress comes to an end, to acknowledge the service of Congressman CLEO FIELDS. On this occasion I am joined by the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina, the honorable Congressman MEL WATT.

Before I yield time to Mr. WATT, I certainly want to say a few words about Congressman FIELDS.

We are living in a time when African-Americans, particularly young African-American men in our Nation, are being criticized and chastised for a whole host of things, from drug sale and drug use in our communities to violent crimes. Often time legislators on both the Democrat and Republican side, quite frankly, have used young African-American males as the justification for the building of more prisons and not funding schools adequately.

We are living at a time when the Sentencing Commission suggests that one out of every three black men in our Nation between the ages of 20 and 29 are involved in the criminal justice system, on probation, on parole, or in jail.

Even in my district, as I work with young people, I am astounded and amazed to see so many young people who have ankle identification systems that are now tagged to their legs because they are part of a probation system because of overcrowding in the prisons.

Yet, in the midst of all of the negative impressions that the media gives us about young African-American men, when I was not a member of this body, I had the privilege of speaking at high schools and colleges all across this country, and just no individual in the Nation, there are only 435 Members of Congress, just no individual in the Nation stood as a greater and a more outstanding example of what we could become than the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana, the Honorable CLEO FIELDS.

He was first the youngest state legislator in the history of Louisiana and the youngest legislator in the 103d Congress. He founded and sustained the Innovative Congressional Classroom, where high school students in the 4th District of Louisiana are involved in debating issues and developing appreciation of the political process. He is the founder and chairman of the House Education Caucus, which has over 60 members. He was the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Task Force on Church Burnings and Redistricting. He has helped every Member of this body to recognize the importance of these issues and how they affect every one of us.

I know all too well, long before I became a Member of this institution,

that the role that Congressman CLEO FIELDS was playing in talking about the desegregation of this Congress, making it possible for more minorities to serve here, was all too an important role, when one considers that after the Plessy versus Ferguson decision of 1896, during that first reconstruction period, there were 22 African-Americans elected to Congress.

As a result of that decision in 1896, by 1901 there were zero African-Americans in this institution, and it was almost 60 years later that Brown versus the Board of Education was passed and the principles of equal protection under the law was established, which really laid the foundation for this institution to pass and President Johnson to sign into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As a result of that effort, there are now 39 African-American members in this institution.

Representative Fields was a college student when he ran for the State Senate. After having served in the State Senate with great distinction, he managed to develop and gain a seat on the Redistricting Committee in the State Senate in Louisiana. In a State almost 30-plus percent African-American, Congressman CLEO FIELDS was then in a position to effectuate and actualize the Voting Rights Act of 1965 with the 1990 census. Subsequently, he created a second congressional district for African-Americans in the State of Louisiana.

The goal was not to create reverse discrimination for voters in Louisiana, but it was to provide the kind of adequate and much-needed representation that 30 percent of the people of the State of Louisiana had heretofore been denied.

Congressman BILL JEFFERSON was the first African-American from the State of Louisiana elected since reconstruction, and the second African-American was the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana, Congressman CLEO FIELDS.

I was a student at North Carolina A&T State University when I first met CLEO FIELDS. He was involved in the Jessie Jackson for President campaign. I remember all too well when Congressman FIELDS and I came to Washington, and one night we were driving past this very noble and very distinguished institution, and Representative FIELDS looked out of the car window that night, and he said, "JESSIE JACKSON, Jr., one day you and I could very well have the opportunity to serve in that institution." I kind of laughed and kind of cajoled Congressman FIELDS, because I certainly knew he was on the track to serving in this institution. I had no idea that I would ever have the privilege and the honor of serving in this institution with Congressman FIELDS.

When I announced my candidacy a year and a half or so ago, I so looked forward to serving in this institution with Congressman CLEO FIELDS, because he alone has stood as an outstanding example for young African-

Americans across this country. With all of the negative burden that had been heaped upon them as a generation, you alone stood as a bright and shining example of what we could all become, if we simply stopped complaining about what we did not have, if we just used what we did have.

So I am a member of Congress today because of the outstanding example that Congressman FIELDS has set, and because of the commitment that he has to public service. I am just honored and privileged to have had, albeit for a brief moment, this opportunity to serve with you.

With that, I would like to yield time to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina, the Honorable MEL WATT.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I wanted to first express my thanks to Congressman JESSIE JACKSON, Jr., for coming up with the idea and pulling the people together to pay tribute to my good friend CLEO FIELDS. I want to thank my colleague, MAJOR OWENS from New York, for reserving the time and yielding part of the time to us for this purpose.

□ 2300

Mr. Speaker, I have been wondering how to approach this tribute, because I could approach it in a number of different ways. First of all, I could approach it as a roast of my good friend the gentleman from Louisiana, CLEO FIELDS, because he is first and foremost my friend and we have, in the last 4 years, during the time that we have served in this Congress together, and 4 years ago was really the first time I had met him, although I had known of his reputation, but during that 4 years we have become what I would call in the community "ace buddies."

We do a lot of joking around, and so I was tempted to use this evening to roast him, but I decided that that probably would not be the proper thing to do when somebody 100 years from now or 50 years from now reads the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and finds all of these things of a humorous nature on such a serious occasion.

So I started to reflect, well, why is it that we are honoring and saluting CLEO FIELDS this evening? We are honoring and saluting him because tomorrow or Saturday or next Wednesday or whatever day it is the leadership says we get out of here to adjourn this session of Congress will be the last day that we will have the opportunity to serve with this distinguished legislator. His term will run the balance of the year, but we will not be in a position where we can come and pay this tribute to him.

The reason that we pay tribute to him is that he has been an outstanding legislator, an outstanding friend and he will no longer be able to serve that role. Now, why will he not be able to serve that role? Well, the Supreme Court of the United States has said that race cannot be taken into account in the drawing of congressional dis-

tricts in a manner which results in congressional districts favoring or making it possible for minority representatives to be elected to Congress.

Now, we can take race into account in a negative way. In fact, throughout the history of this country, race has been being taken into account in the drawing of congressional districts, especially in the South, for as long as we can remember and as long as history records, but when you start to take race into account in a manner which addresses this history of discrimination in the electoral process, then somehow the Supreme Court starts to feel that that is improper and that the Nation, all of a sudden, should be color-blind.

So it has handed down a series of devastating lawsuits and opinions as a result of lawsuits which quite possibly will have the effect of less and less minority representation. It is ironic that the first casualty of that series of cases is the person who has chaired the task force for the Congressional Black Caucus on redistricting.

Now, when we talk in the Halls, sometimes CLEO FIELDS will suggest to me that this would not have happened to him in Louisiana but for the Shaw versus Reno case, which originated in North Carolina, and that lawsuit was filed as a result of the drawing of my congressional district. So, in some measure, he is holding me responsible for his leaving Congress, and so in that sense, I guess I should be here roasting him and shoring him up and telling him that it is not me that bears responsibility for it but the Supreme Court, at least five members of the Supreme Court, who have promulgated this series of cases that has resulted in a district that he can no longer win in.

Let me conclude, Mr. Speaker, because I know the time is and I want to make one final point before I close.

We have been through this process leading to a diminution and, in fact, an elimination of minority representation in the Congress of the United States once before in our history. Maybe we could argue we have been through it twice before, because when the Constitution was written, it was written in such a way that none of us were taken into account, and so minorities, blacks, at that time, could not represent anybody in Congress because we were not even considered full-fledged citizens.

But at the end of the 1800's, after we had gained a measure of representation for minorities in the United States Congress as a result of poll taxes, literacy tests, Klan intimidation, we reached a point where the number of minorities in Congress decreased from approximately 20 down to, at the end of the 1800's we had only one left, and his name was George H. White. He was a black man from North Carolina, interestingly enough.

I want to close on the comments that he made in February 1901 when he took to the House floor and addressed the House for in excess of an hour in what

was supposed to be a speech on an agriculture bill, and he started his speech by reciting two or three sentences about the agriculture bill, and then turned his attention to what was happening in the area of minority representation.

In that speech what he said was, my colleagues, this perhaps is the temporary farewell of Negroes in the Congress of the United States, but phoenix-like, someday we will rise up and come again. And I have that same feeling about my colleague, CLEO FIELDS. I mean I think it is great that he is such a young guy and he started at such a young age, because I think we will see CLEO FIELDS again in this body.

I think the words of George H. White will be prophetic. They were prophetic when he spoke them in February 1901. It took 30-plus years for any black representative from anyplace in the country to rise up and come again to the Congress. It took over 90 years for any minority, any black representative from the State of North Carolina to rise up and come again, and it might take a few years for CLEO FIELDS to rise up and come again, but I believe that this man, with these qualities, with this commitment, with the finesse and vitality and youth that CLEO FIELDS has, he will rise up and come again and he will make an impression on our Nation in this very House of Representatives.

I salute you, my friend, and I wish you the very best in years to come, and I am looking forward to serving again with you.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I do not think that we can provide a higher tribute to the distinguished gentleman from the Fourth District of Louisiana than the tribute provided by Mr. WATT of North Carolina. His historic call perspective is certainly profound. It was George H. White, as he indicated earlier, who said like a phoenix we will rise again.

Today we lose a significant Member of the House of Representatives who represented not only African Americans but Anglo-Americans and Asian Americans and Latino Americans in the Fourth Congressional District.

There is not one Member of this institution who can challenge the quality of leadership that Congressman CLEO FIELDS has brought to this institution. He belongs in this House, he belongs in the U.S. Congress, he belongs in the Senate, if he so chooses, and if he so chooses he belongs at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

But the historical perspective is particularly important as we prepare to close out this particular tribute to Representative FIELDS. When we look at the challenges to representation all across this Nation, when we look at the number of African Americans that have served with great honor and distinction in this institution, none have been able to provide the kind of leadership and the kind of vision over such a short period of time that the distin-

guished gentleman from Louisiana represents.

I would like to take this opportunity as well, Congressman FIELDS, to support you and I wish you farewell and I wish you the best of luck.

CONGRESSMAN CLEO FIELDS FOURTH DISTRICT,
LOUISIANA

Cleo Fields, a Louisiana Democrat, was re-elected to serve a second term in the United States House of Representatives in 1994. Fields is a member of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, and the House Committee on Small Business. He sits on the Subcommittees on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit and Domestic and International Monetary Policy of the Banking Committee, and the Small Business Subcommittees of Government Programs and Tax and Finance. He is the founder of the Education Caucus, and is a member of the Democratic Caucus Committee on Organization, Study, and Review for the 104th Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Progressive Caucus.

Elected to serve his first term in the House of Representatives in 1992, Fields, then 30 years old, was the youngest member of the 103rd Congress. As a freshman, he introduced the Delta Initiatives Act, the Stolen Guns Act, and the Check Cashing Act of 1993. Moreover, he assumed leadership on ATM legislation to provide consumers proper user-fee disclosure. Presently, he continues to work closely with colleagues to ensure enactment of meaningful ATM legislation. Fields' legislative initiatives also include the introduction of the "Education Trust Fund Act of 1995" and the "Tax-free Savings and Investment Income Act." His proposed "Education Trust Fund Act" levies a gaming tax of five percent to create a trust fund to be used to improve public elementary and secondary schools across the country by increasing funding for teacher salaries, school infrastructure, and educational supplies. Another bill, the "Tax-free Savings and Investment Income Act," encourages savings and investment by allowing tax-payers to make up to \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for couples in unearned tax free income.

In the Banking Committee, he is a persistent advocate for inclusion of adequate consumer protections in all legislation the panel considers. He is responsible for bringing issues such as tenant representation on housing boards, low-cost banking accounts and government check cashing, insurance disclosure, and ATM fee disclosure to the attention of Committee Members. As the House Banking Committee has advanced legislation to roll back consumer protections, Fields has been instrumental in attempting to maintain current standards included in the Community Reinvestment Act, the Truth in Savings Act, the Truth in Lending Act and other consumer banking laws. He has worked closely with consumers and both the banking and insurance industries to explore mutually advantageous solutions to the issue of national banks selling insurance. Congressman Fields has also spent many hours in Committee trying to remedy the BIF/SAIF discrepancy, which has put bankers at odds with the S&L industry regarding their insurance funds.

As a residing member of the Small Business Committee, Congressman Fields has launched several initiatives to cultivate and increase economic development for small businesses. He organized the Fourth Congressional District Economic Development Summit, which exposed the local business community to existing federal programs that provide business development and enhancement assistance. Facilitating the Summit

were prominent leaders such as the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin, and the Regional Director for the Small Business Administration (SBA), Till Phillips.

Congressman Fields also spearheaded the drive to secure the future of the SBA's 8 (a) Minority Business Development Program. He challenged attempts to dismantle the program through letters, hearings, press conferences, and special orders. Further, he introduced legislation that requires the SBA to make procurement information available to Minority Business Development Centers in order to assist small and traditionally disadvantaged businesses in securing federal contracts.

One of the Congressman's most prized accomplishments is his creation of a Congressional Classroom for elementary and secondary school students. The first of its kind in the country, the Classroom was initiated to develop students' understanding of the legislative process through "hands-on" experience and mock legislative sessions. Numbering approximately 1200, Classroom members have had the privilege of hearing first hand from our nation's leaders including the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House, the Attorney General, and various Cabinet Members. Each has enthusiastically addressed the students on national issues from their unique perspective of leadership.

During the 104th Congress, Fields organized the first-ever Education Caucus and currently serves as its House Chairman. This bi-partisan Caucus is comprised of over 60 Members of both Congressional Chambers. The first hearing, held in May of 1996, focused on the concerns of teachers, parents, and other organizations interested in improving education in our nation. The Caucus has also highlighted the benefits of corporate involvement in education, analyzed the reasons for the success and failure of national and local education programs, featured programs that have the potential to provide national models, and discussed the limitations imposed upon educational opportunities by decreased funding.

Throughout his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Fields has been elected Chairman of both the Congressional Black Caucus Task Force on Redistricting and the CBC Task Force on Church Burnings. As CBC Chair of the Redistricting Task Force, Fields hosted hearings and meetings to provide Members of Congress, state legislators, civil rights leaders and constituents with comprehensive information on all issues pertinent to redistricting and the relevant cases across the nation. Chairing the Task Force on Church Burnings, Fields was able to bring together government and business resources with the congregations of burned churches to begin rebuilding initiatives. Working closely with President Clinton, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Fields, along with the co-chairs of the National Church Arson Task Force, hosted the first public town hall meeting on church burnings in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Cleo Fields was born on November 22, 1962 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is a 1980 graduate of McKinley High School in Baton Rouge. In 1984, Fields earned his B.A. degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, where he also served as Student Government Association President and was elected by the Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents to serve on the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Directly following his undergraduate studies, Fields earned his Juris Doctorate from Southern University School of Law. In 1987,

the same year he graduated from law school, Fields was elected to the Louisiana State Senate. At the age of 24, he was the youngest state senator in Louisiana history and the youngest state senator in the nation. While in office, Fields sponsored and passed legislation that established Drug Free Zones near school campuses, as well as legislation creating an Inner City Economic Development Program. Concerned with increasing violence in schools, and in an effort to redirect students' attention, Fields introduced school uniform legislation.

In 1995, Cleo Fields, again made history by becoming the first African-American in a gubernatorial run-off in the State of Louisiana. Because of his dedicated commitment to education, the environment, economic development, and deficit reduction, he compelled the attention of the electorate. Many believe his candidacy in Louisiana's 1995 gubernatorial election has permanently changed the face of Louisiana politics.

Fields is a faithful member of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. He is happily married to Debra Horton Fields, and they have a son named Cleo Brandon Fields.

CLEO FIELDS (DEMOCRAT) OF BATON ROUGE—
ELECTED 1992, 2ND TERM

WASHINGTON.— For a brief time in 1994, Fields' nascent congressional career appeared to be over. But instead he was back in 1995, announcing the Jan. 22 birth of his firstborn child to cheering colleagues on the House floor.

The threat to Fields; re-election had come the previous July, when a panel of three federal judges ordered into effect a new congressional district plan for Louisiana that eliminated freshman Fields' majority-black 4th District.

But a month later, that court order was stayed while on appeal to the Supreme Court. The 1994 elections went ahead, using lines drawn earlier that year by the state Legislature. The new 4th looked nothing like its predecessor and was less black (the African-American percentage dropped from 66 to 58). But the new 4th retained Fields' Baton Rouge base and allowed him to win a second term with ease (his 70 percent majority in the October primary obviated a November vote).

Between December 1993 and August 1994, Fields' district changed drastically four times as federal judges and Louisiana state legislators redrew it. Late in 1994, the Supreme Court decided to hear the appeal of the Louisiana case, which may mean yet another overhaul. If one comes, Fields hopes not to be around for it: he announced in January 1995 that he would be a candidate for the November election for governor.

Fields supported his party leadership on more than nine votes out of 10 in the 103rd Congress, straying most notably when the party itself was most divided. He voted against both NAFTA and GATT, votes that helped him earn a perfect score in 1993 and 1994 from the AFL-CIO.

He strove to use his seats on the Banking Committee and the Small Business Committee to leverage capital for small businesses willing to relocate in his district, where poverty rates are high. He worked to protect the privacy of bank customers' credit and tried to force banks opening interstate branches to provide low-cost basic checking services.

But the continuing conflict over the district map seemed to overshadow all else. A federal three-judge panel in December 1993 threw out the congressional district map used in 1992, which contained a giant 'Z'-shaped 4th District, the second black-majority seat in Louisiana.

The state Legislature redrew the map in April 1994, but the federal court rejected that

plan in July and imposed its own, one with only one majority-black district. This was the decision stayed by the Supreme Court the following month.

AT HOME: Fields pursued this seat relentlessly, starting with the redistricting struggle he fought as a member of the state Senate in the early 1990s.

He was the youngest state senator in Louisiana history at age 24. In the Legislature, he was a leader against illicit drug use and was regarded favorably by environmentalists, but not so much so that he was perceived as any enemy of the state's powerful natural gas industry.

Mostly Fields showed a knack for positioning himself to win elections. He also demonstrated the drive and energy to make good on his opportunities.

In the Senate, he chaired the redistricting committee and worked to craft a second majority-black district for the state in compliance with the Voting Rights Act. He competed with rival Sen. Charles "C.D." Jones, a 13-year incumbent from Monroe, over the shape of the district, and eventually Jones prevailed.

But if Jones won the battle, Fields won the war. He nearly won the seat in the all-party primary with 48 percent in an eight candidate field. Thrown into a November runoff with Jones, Fields continued his student-led, grass-roots campaign and walked away with 74 percent.

In 1994, no other Democrat entered the race, and Fields easily swept aside the lone Republican who came forward to test him in the all-party primary.

This is the district that returned the issue of race-based congressional redistricting to the Supreme Court. More precisely, this is the descendant of the district that mired Louisiana's redistricting map in litigation after its enactment in 1992. The 4th District used for the 1992 election was a Z-shaped creature that zigzagged through all or part of 28 parishes and five of Louisiana's largest cities, digesting black communities to create the state's second black-majority district.

A three-judge federal panel threw out that redistricting plan in December 1993. The judges, singling out the shape of the 4th, ruled that the map was the product of an unconstitutional racial gerrymander. In a special session, the Louisiana Legislature in April 1994 passed a new district map. That plan, signed into law and approved by the U.S. Justice Department, preserved the black majority in the 4th but substantially reoriented it.

The federal judges invalidated the Legislature's plan as well and imposed their own model with only one majority-black district (the New Orleans-based 2nd). But the Supreme Court stayed that ruling in August, leaving the Legislature's plan in place for the 1994 election. The court accepted the Louisiana case for its 1994-95 term.

The old 4th, dubbed "the 'Z' with drips" by a state redistricting staff member, had started in the northwest Louisiana industrial city of Shreveport. From there, the district snaked east along the Arkansas border, then followed the Mississippi River southward. At Pointe Coupee Parish it split. One finger plunged west, deep into central Louisiana, and the other continued east and south to the Cajun city of Lafayette. As chairman of the 1992 state redistricting committee, then-state Sen. Fields made sure Baton Rouge, his home base, anchored the 4th. Outside Baton Rouge in central and northeastern Louisiana the 4th was anchored by the black sections in blue-collar Alexandria and Lafayette, the center of the state's Cajun culture.

As redrawn by the Legislature, the 4th still covers a vast distance, from the Texas border to a point southeast of Baton Rouge. It re-

tains Fields' Baton Rouge base and parts of Lafayette, Alexandria and Shreveport. But by redistricting criteria, it is more "compact" than its predecessor.

The 4th's 1994 version takes in three whole parishes and 12 split parishes. Shorn of switch-backs, it sticks to a northwest-to-southeast diagonal, resembling, in the words of a state official, "a sash on a beauty queen." For much of its course, it follows the Red River and interstate 49 and 10.

This version has a smaller black population than the one in which Fields ran in 1992. That district was 66 percent black; this one is 58 percent black. Poverty permeates many of the nooks and crannies of this Democratic district. While the 4th includes rural areas, it is dominated by its urban black communities. Nearly 25 percent of residents live in the 4th's portion of East Baton Rouge Parish (Baton Rouge). Nearly 20 percent live in the 4th's section of Caddo Parish (Shreveport).

Splitting the city with the 6th, the 4th captures all of northern and parts of southern Baton Rouge, which includes lower- and middle-income black and racially mixed neighborhoods. Many residents work in nearby chemical plants, including the Exxon Court Manufacturing Complex, the city's largest private employer. Several universities crucial to Fields' support, such as Louisiana State University (29,500 students) and the largely black Southern University, also were included.

The district ends in Shreveport. It includes almost every black enclave in the city, including populous Cooper Road, one of Louisiana's oldest black communities. Once an oil and gas town, Shreveport now counts AT&T Consumer Products and a General Motors plant in its economic mix.

HON CLEO FIELDS

Committee Assignments: Committee on Banking and Financial Services; Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy.

Committee on Small Business; Subcommittee on Government Programs, Subcommittee on Tax and Finance.

CBC Seniority Ranking: 24; Staff Contact: Kimberleigh Butler-Smith.

Cleo Fields, Louisiana Democrat was elected to serve his first term in the United States Congress in 1992. He was sworn into office on January 5, 1993 at the age of 30, making him the youngest member of the 103rd Congress.

As a member of the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, Fields serves on the Subcommittees on Housing and Community Opportunity, and Domestic and International Monetary Policy.

In addition, Fields serves on the House Committee on Small Business where he serves on the Subcommittees on Government Programs and Tax and Finance.

Fields was a member of the Democratic Caucus Committee on Organization, Study and Review for the 103rd Congress.

Cleo Fields was born November 22, 1962 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is a 1980 graduate of McKinley High School in Baton Rouge.

In 1984, Fields earned his B.A. degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge. During his senior year, he was elected Student Government Association President. In the same year, he was elected by the Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents to serve on the Louisiana Board of Regents. He also made the Dean's List and was chosen a member of Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

Directly following his undergraduate studies, Fields entered Southern University

School of Law. During law school, he served as a law clerk for both the East Baton Rouge Parish City Prosecutor's office and the Parish Attorney's Office.

In 1987, the same year he graduated from law school, Fields was elected to the Louisiana State Senate. At the age of 24, he was the youngest state senator in Louisiana history and the youngest state senator in the nation at the time.

In his second term, Fields continues to be strong voice for children and consumers. A long time advocates of youth, Fields strongly objects to weakening programs which benefit children. Fields has offered many bills and amendments which deal with education, job training, check cashing, insurance disclosure, and other banking related issues.

Fields is a member of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is married to Debra Horton of Baton Rouge. The couple has one son, Cleo Brandon Fields, born January 22, 1995.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Illinois, Congressman JESSE JACKSON, Jr., for reserving time today. I join him and members of the Louisiana congressional delegation in saluting an outstanding Member of the House of Representatives, CLEO FIELDS. This bright, young leader has set a fine example of what can be achieved by those seeking to change the world around them. We gather to recognize his contributions to this Congress and the Nation.

From his days as the president of the Southern University Student Government Association, CLEO FIELDS knew how to accomplish tasks that to others seemed out of reach. His election to the Louisiana State Senate at the age of 24 showed his home State that a leader and player in Louisiana politics was emerging. At the age of 30, CLEO FIELDS was elected to the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, constituents of Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District are fortunate to have the dedication and service of CLEO FIELDS. As chairman of the House Education Caucus, CLEO FIELDS has taken a provocative look at methods for improving our education system. He has involved leaders from all aspects of the system in candid discussions of the best methods to serve America's children.

As founder of a successful program called "Congressional Classroom", CLEO FIELDS has allowed nearly 1,200 elementary and secondary students to gain a better understanding of our legislative process. These young people benefit from a firsthand look at their Government in action, as well as meeting with congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most powerful organizations in the Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus, has also benefited as a result of CLEO FIELDS' expertise and determination. As a founder of this organization, I was proud to welcome CLEO FIELDS into our ranks. His dedication to equality and civil rights made him a very valuable player on our team.

We recall that when the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated what is now the Fourth District of Louisiana, thus turning back the clock on decades of progress, CLEO FIELDS stood strong and fought for his constituents. CLEO FIELDS rose to meet the challenge in a manner benefitting a true champion. In the process of leading this courageous battle, this articulate leader helped an even younger generation to understand the power of the ballot box, just as he had done at Southern University.

Mr. Speaker, some Members of this body might say that CLEO FIELDS is retiring. I would

hasten to add, however, that this young star is just beginning to rise. I will miss CLEO FIELDS and I wish him all the best in the future.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and distinguished colleagues Congressman CLEO FIELDS of Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District. When people talk about Congressman FIELDS, they often use the word "youngest." He was the youngest State legislator in Louisiana history, he was the youngest member of the 103d Congress. However, Representative FIELDS' personal and professional accomplishments belie his age. His tremendous energy, coupled with his desire to help America's youth and its minorities, has ensured that Congressman FIELDS will leave behind an significant legacy.

CLEO has always been a champion of the people. After receiving his juris doctorate from Southern University School of Law at the age of 24, he was elected to the Louisiana State Senate, becoming the youngest State senator in Louisiana history. While in office, he sponsored and passed legislation establishing Drug Free Zones near school campuses, and worked to create an Inner City Economic Development Program. He was a leader against illegal drug use and a champion of effective environmental protection initiatives.

In the House of Representatives, Congressman FIELDS, has continued to work tirelessly to protect and promote the opportunities and rights of all Americans.

As a member of the Small Business Committee, he has vigorously defended the Small Business Administration's Minority Business Development Program, helping to ensure that women and minority small business owners are able to succeed economically.

As a member of the Banking Committee, he has staunchly fought for consumer protections. In the face of 104th Congress' attempt to roll-back consumer protections, Representative FIELDS has fought to maintain the consumer protections contained in the Community Reinvestment Act, the Truth in Savings Act, and the Truth in Lending Act.

Recognizing the importance of education and of our Nation's youth, Representative FIELDS organized the first-ever Education Caucus and currently serves as its House chairman. This bipartisan, bicameral, caucus has focused on the concerns of teachers, parents, and other organizations interested in improving education in our nation.

Finally, I especially commend Congressman FIELDS for his work as the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus' Task Force on Church Burnings. We have worked side-by-side in response to this national crisis. Representative FIELDS was able to bring together government and business resources with the congregations of burned churches to begin the process of rebuilding. His work helped to not only rebuild churches, but also hope. Working to educate all Americans as to why the church burnings affected them; his service in this area cannot be overstated.

I will miss Representative FIELDS' constant efforts to promote minority business development and to improve education in this country. I wish him the best of success in his future endeavors, and I feel honored to have served with him.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, from the moment Congressman CLEO FIELDS came to Washington, he and I have been friends. We worked together a lot. In fact, when the Demo-

cratic party was in the majority, we used to take turns presiding over the House floor. I can tell you that he quickly earned my respect and admiration.

While I too will be leaving at the end of this session, I know that Representative FIELDS will be sorely missed. As one of the youngest State legislators in Louisiana's history and in the 103d Congress, he has been a shining example for the youth in his district and his State. His desire to help the American youth obtain the best education possible is evident in the education trust fund legislation he introduced.

I wish you, your lovely wife, Debra, and your son, Cleo much happiness in the future.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the work and character of Congressman CLEO FIELDS. He is a champion of education, small businesses and consumers. His dedication to public service began at an early age. At 24, Congressman FIELDS became the youngest State senator in Louisiana history. As a legislator, he was a leader against illicit drug use, promoted school uniforms and created an Inner City Economic Development Program. His outstanding record as a State senator resulted in his election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992. Again, as the youngest member of the 103d Congress and a freshman, FIELDS' aptitude and abilities were recognized. Hence, Fields was able to win seats on the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, and the House Committee on Small Business.

Representative FIELDS legislative initiatives demonstrate his commitment to education, small businesses and consumers. FIELDS is most noted for his introduction of the Education Trust Fund Act of 1995, which was designed to increase funding for teacher salaries, school infrastructure, and educational supplies. His creation of a Congressional classroom for elementary and secondary school students has also received a great amount of support. The classroom was initiated to develop student's understanding of the legislative process through experience and mock legislative sessions. FIELDS also organized the first-ever Education Caucus and currently serves as its chairman.

Representative FIELDS initiated other legislation to address the concerns of the people of Louisiana, including the Tax Free Savings and Investment Income Act, to encourage savings and investments; the Fourth Congressional District Economic Summit; and programs to secure the future of the SBA's 8(a) Minority Business Development Program. In addition to the foregoing, FIELDS has served as chairman of both the Congressional Black Caucus Task Force on Redistricting and the Congressional Black Caucus Task Force on Church Burnings.

I applaud Congressman FIELDS for his newest endeavors which include working to reelect President Bill Clinton and working to help Democrats regain control of Congress. I also commend him for starting the new grass roots organization called Volunteers Organized to Encourage Registration. This is an organization committed to educating our young people about the importance of being involved in the political process and voting.

I salute the dedication and hard work of CLEO. I know the future holds great things for him. I thank him for his service and wish his family and him the best in the years ahead.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to honor and applaud an extraordinary colleague who will be retiring at the end of the 104th Congress, the Honorable CLEO FIELDS of Louisiana. Congressman FIELDS came to Washington as a member of this body in 1992 along with me which makes this tribute extra special.

Congressman FIELDS pursued his seat relentlessly, starting with the redistricting struggle he fought as a member of the State senate in the early 1990's. He was the youngest State senator in Louisiana history at the age of 24. In the legislature, he was a leader against illicit drug use and was regarded favorably by environmentalists, but not so much so that he was perceived as an enemy of the State's powerful natural gas industry.

Mostly Congressman FIELDS showed a knack for positioning himself to win elections. He also demonstrated the drive and energy to make good on his opportunities. Congressman FIELDS' actions and his words have focused on improving the future for our Nation's youth, and recognizing the importance of opportunity for all his constituents. As chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Task Forces on Church Burnings and Redistricting, he has helped every member of this body to recognize the importance of these issues and how they effect every one of us. As a member of the Banking and Financial Services Committee, he led efforts to insure that no consumers are taken advantage of by ATM user-fees, and that all Americans will continue to be protected by the Community Reinvestment Act, the Truth in Savings Act, the Truth in Lending Act, and other consumer banking laws.

Mr. Speaker, it has been both a pleasure and an honor to serve next to and with Congressman CLEO FIELDS of Louisiana. I, like the rest of my colleagues, wish him well in his future endeavors.

FOLLOW THE MONEY AND LOOK AT THE NOSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman wants to bid a fond farewell to the gentleman from Louisiana, CLEO FIELDS, I would yield to her, if I may do it first.

It has been an honor serving with you, sir, and I am glad they did not roast you tonight.

But I would gladly yield some time to the gentlewoman, also a distinguished Portia, a barrister and a lawyer in her own right of some standing.

CONTINUING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN CLEO FIELDS

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kindness and his collegiality this evening, for this is a special occasion, and I will not be long. I respect the Speaker and the time that is allotted to the gentleman.

Being in my office, as the waning hours of this session and this 104th Congress came to a close, I could not allow this evening to close out without my recognition of a friend, a legislator,

an extremely able American, and that is in the name of CLEO FIELDS.

It is interesting, coming in as a freshman and working with my senior, the honorable CLEO FIELDS. He was a very good teacher. He is a lawyer by training, he is a legislator, but over the time that we have had an opportunity to work together, what I notice most about him is that he does not take up causes. He has avocations or he takes up issues which are filled with compassion.

I have watched him in his continuous efforts to have Americans recognize the need for not only educating our children but housing our children in the right infrastructure and a structure to allow them to learn.

I view CLEO FIELDS not only as a friend but as a friend of his constituents, a friend of Louisiana, and a friend of this country. As a young man he is someone who understands working families. I have watched him in women's issues be just as passionate about the needs and rights of women. I have watched him talk about, passionately, the opportunities for your college students and the need for a fair and just affirmative action.

I have watched him come to the floor continuously to talk about helpless babies who are in need of Head Start, school lunches, and, as well, who are in need of opportunities which he said he would have never had if the doors had not been open to him.

I spoke with him about his future, and in his own humble way he never offered to say that I expect to go on and slay a dragon.

□ 2315

I think what he said to me is that he will be back, that he wanted to continue to be a humble servant he wanted to continue to serve people. His proudest moment, as I have been able to recollect, is the birth of his son and, with his loving wife, I have watched that young man, now that I call him, though he is under 2 years old, grow in the love of his father.

The first days of the birth of his son, we were always kept apprised of his growth, the interesting things that he would be doing, the late nights that I understand that he was a good sleeper, but his father loves him and loved him and you could always see that relationship even as this young baby is growing up.

I really come to the floor to simply say that my friend, you will be missed, but you have claimed a place in our hearts and the minds of the American people. You have claimed a place by simply saying that I am a fighter for just causes. I will not do it in anger. I will do it forcefully.

Along with colleagues who joined you on the floor tonight, along with your colleague and friend, JESSE JACKSON, JR. who I heard describe the friendship and both your aspirations and wonderment about being in this place, we are better for it. This Congress is better.

This Nation is better. I, for one, will certainly ask you to keep the light burning, to let us hear your voice resounding, for there are many great things in store for the Honorable CLEO FIELDS, for the 21st century is yet to open its doors to your bright mind and what you have to offer this country.

Partisan comments at this point certainly, and I will recognize the gentleman, are not appropriate, for I think, as my colleague from California has noted, he has enjoyed serving with you. So this is a bipartisan farewell, to say to you that all of us collectively will look forward again to the activism, the light, the message, the word of CLEO FIELDS, a great citizen of the State of Louisiana and a great American. God bless you.

I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. DORNAN. Just remember the words of a great, if not the greatest American general, I shall return. JESSE JACKSON will be here waiting for you.

THE SADDEST DAY

Mr. Speaker, I was glad to give up those few minutes, I have 42½ minutes left. I want to try and cram 2 special hours into that. As I said earlier, the title for my overall special order, which I am going to say later, does not apply to this first part which I would call, the saddest day in my 20 years on Capitol Hill. That is today.

Today I was told, without a direct phone call, what we still have here, as they said in the movie, is a failure to communicate, Cool Hand Luke, I was told today, after I had already sent out thank you notes to the Speaker and others for getting the POW missing in action protection act back into law within a few days by tomorrow by putting it in the continuing resolution. This is different. This is not authorizing language on an appropriations bill. Clinton signed it into law.

The Bob Dole, BEN GILMAN, LAUTENBERG POW-MIA language that POWs and concerned citizens who have worked with them for 20, 25 years circulated on this hill for two decades and Clinton signed it into law in February 10, and one human being at the north end of this building, gutted it out and referred to people like myself, who have given more than months, years of their life, 8 trips to Vietnam in my own case while the war was going on, narrating while the brother of a U.S. Senator, sitting Senator now, while his younger brother was in POW clothing in a cage in Pershing Square for 2 days to make the case of what was happening to his brother at the ugly nonmercy of the Communists in Hanoi, and I narrated it, traveling around, getting people on. I create the cover of a Life magazine in November 1972, with a Navy hero on it, Ron Dodge, whose remains were finally returned years after I pushed the file at the Vietnamese in Hanoi and had the honor of going to his funeral at Arlington, to have one person at the north end of this building call me and others a hobbyist, this is