

Charles' arm as the couple thanked the people who prayed for them during the long ordeal. Songe also exclaimed at such a joyous homecoming.

Eleven-year-old Renae planned to be the first to hug her father. But, she said, "Mom got to do that. I didn't mind. The first thing I did was sing a song I wrote for him."

Renae said she was too startled to cry the first time she saw her father, but her song, "Praise God," allowed her to express her overwhelming emotions.

"I didn't cry and neither did Heidi or Jonathan. But my mom just grabbed him and cried," the girl said. "I feel like I've gone to the toy store and gotten my daddy as a gift."

Songe first touched American soil Saturday night after his 17-hour flight from Moscow landed in New York. Songe said he was too tired that night to do anything but call his family and sleep. He woke the next morning and ate an early breakfast of eggs, bacon, hash browns, orange juice and coffee.

"It was great," he said. I haven't had a meal like that in years."

Songe ate his second meal in America since his return in a restaurant with Tina and the children Sunday night in New Orleans.

"It's fantastic to see cars, nice cars. You can't see that in Russia," he said. "There is just a special air that tells you you're in America."

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE DAVID E. SKAGGS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable DAVID E. SKAGGS, Member of Congress:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
April 15, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This letter notifies you, pursuant to Rule L [50] of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that a subpoena issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado in the case of United States v. Abbey was mailed to me at my Westminster, Colorado, district office.

I have been advised by the Office of the General Counsel of the House that the method of service of the subpoena did not comply with Rule 17(d) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. I have asked the Office of General Counsel to so advise the attorney who mailed the subpoena to me.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID E. SKAGGS.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEAL WHITENER HAHN, JR., AND THE CHARLES GRAY MORGAN VFW POST, GREENVILLE, NC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, on April 25, 1996, the Charles Gray Morgan Veter-

ans of Foreign Wars Post, in Greenville, NC, will celebrate their 50th anniversary by recognizing their charter members. They, like all of our veterans, have made great sacrifices to protect the American way of life.

Mr. Speaker, what stands out in my mind, is that this generation of veterans, gave so much for their country and asked for so little in return. They answered their country's call to arms, fought bravely on foreign battlefields, and returned home to work hard, and build strong families. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize one of these selfless individuals in particular, Neal Whitener Hahn, Jr., of Greenville, NC.

Mr. Hahn was born in Kinston, NC, on September 7, 1919. Raised with his two brothers and one sister, Mr. Hahn lived most of his younger life in Wilmington, NC. He is married to his wife of 50 years, Helen, and together they have raised four children.

In 1938, as WW II loomed in the horizon, Mr. Hahn joined the North Carolina National Guard, Company A, 105th Medical Battalion. He was trained as a medic. On September 16, 1940, he was inducted into the U.S. Army and stationed at Fort Jackson, SC. He spent the next 4 years training new troops. On February 12, 1944, Mr. Hahn was ordered overseas. Ten days later he landed in Scotland, where he trained for several months. On June 10, 1944, his unit landed at Omaha and Red Beach as part of the Allied invasion of France.

Mr. Hahn spent the next 337 days on the front lines, as a combat medic. He received five battle stars during that time. On January 10, 1945, he was wounded in Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge, and was awarded the Purple Heart. Then, on April 12, 1945, Mr. Hahn was awarded the Silver Star for Valor, the military's second highest award for bravery. The following is an excerpt of the official citation:

Neil W. Hahn, Jr., Medical Department, United States Army, for gallantry in action on 21 December, 1944, in Belgium. When they learned that men were lying seriously wounded in an open field, across a river, Private Hahn waded through icy currents of the river, and crawled for one hundred yards through intense enemy fire to the casualties. Finding that the wounded men were unable to move, Private Hahn and his comrade gave first aid and made three trips to evacuate them through the enemy fire and across the river. Their great heroism and unselfish devotion to duty, saved the wounded men, from death through wounds or exposure.

Mr. Speaker, what is even more remarkable, is that Mr. Hahn never actually received some of his military decorations and awards. For 50 years, this humble man kept quiet, never asking our Government for his medals. To Mr. Hahn, the medals were not important. What is important is that he served his country with courage and honor. Now, in conjunction with their 50th anniversary, the VFW Post in Greenville will conduct a special ceremony to finally present to Mr. Hahn all of the medals he has earned and so clearly deserves.

Mr. Speaker, Neal Hahn is certainly not alone, in deserving our recognition. I stand here today and salute all of our veterans, for their dedication to duty, for risking their lives to protect our families, and for their continued commitment to our way of life. Mr. Hahn, you, and men and women like yourself are the real heroes in our Nation. To Neal Hahn and veterans everywhere, I say, thank you for your dedication to our Nation.

□ 1515

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

FINALLY, CORRIDOR H FOR WEST VIRGINIA REGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk today about a project that is very important not only to my State of West Virginia but indeed to this entire region, and that is corridor H.

Corridor H is a major four-lane road that has been on the books for 25 years and that we have been trying to build in West Virginia. The environmental impact statement after 6 years has finally been completed, and the public comment period begins on April 26 and will extend for 30 days. This is a time for citizens and groups and businesses and all those individuals who want to have another say and want to review the EIS to do so.

This EIS has been 6 years in the making. It has been one of contention. It has been one in which the State department of transportation has had to meet and accommodate many, many legitimate concerns: environmental, historical, terrain, cost. After a long time the State took four corridors and narrowed it down to a preferred corridor, and then within that 2,000-foot way the State has now accommodated the various concerns that have been made, whether it is a Civil War battlefield or whether it is a stretch of wetland.

After being in the Department of the Interior for a number of weeks, all questions about boundaries for historic battlefields have now been resolved. The Federal Highway Administration

has signed off on corridor H and will review it, of course, again following the environmental impact statement. At that time, probably within the next few months, it will issue its final record of decision, or ROD. Then following that, the State can begin real estate acquisition and appraisal and, hopefully, go to bid at the end of the year.

I say this because corridor H is probably the single most important highway project, not only for West Virginia, but, I think, for this region of the country; 114 miles in West Virginia that are so crucial to not only opening up the eastern part of our State to the west but also then being a natural corridor that continues on out as once people get to Weston and then can continue north and then west toward the Ohio area or south and then west to Kentucky and points west.

Corridor H, I believe, is economically feasible. Indeed, the Appalachian regional studies demonstrate that countries that have a four-lane corridor of this magnitude see job creation three times that which is projected in counties without such a project.

This is a major east/west highway, and so my hope is that we can, with this completion of the environmental impact statement, I realize this is not going to make everyone happy, but with the completion of this environmental impact statement that we can get on about the business of building corridor H. It has been too long in contention, and at least in the West Virginia section it is important that this highway be completed and so to complete the Appalachian corridor system that has promised so much to our State.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to keep you up to date on this important project as it moves ahead. I encourage everybody to be involved in the public comment period, and I look forward to seeing this project actually go to bid sometime at the end of the year in the segments that have already been approved and where these issues have been resolved.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINTOSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. DELAURO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

MONEY AND POWER INFLUENCE ON GAMBLING LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, money and power. That is the influence too often on Capitol Hill when it comes to the legislative process.

Money and power.

The American people more and more every day hold this institution in disrepute because of the influence they see wielded by special interests whose bottom line is money and power.

That influence has been evident throughout the legislative history of a bill to create a national commission to study what a front page article in today's Washington Post calls the "explosive growth in legalized gambling." And today, as Post reporter Blaine Harden reports, "Nevada-based gambling interests working with prominent Republican lobbyists" have "sabotaged" a bipartisan effort in Congress to pass legislation to establish a National Gambling Study Commission.

Money and power.

Those special interests are poised to effectively neuter legislation that would provide information to the American people on the effects of what has become a \$40-billion-a-year industry that generates, according to the Post article, "six times the revenue of all American spectator sports combined." Think about that. Six times the revenue of all spectator sports combined. And when you add to spectator sports revenue other leisure activities for which American spend their money, such as movie box office totals, theme parks, cruise ships, and recorded music, that combined total is over \$3 billion less than gambling revenues in a year.

As our colleagues will recall, we unanimously passed a responsible and fair National Gambling Study Commission bill in the House on March 5. There was bipartisan support for the legislation which has over 140 House cosponsors and which garnered the support of family interests groups across America and major newspapers including the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Boston Globe, Chicago Sun-Times, Cincinnati Enquirer, Dallas Morning News, Los Angeles Times, Houston Chronicle, Philadelphia Inquirer, USA Today, Portland Oregonian, New Orleans Times-Picayune, Indianapolis News, and Washington Post, among others.

But money and power have an insidious way of spreading their tentacles of influence and the gambling interests unleashed their money and power and were ready this morning with killer amendments to the gambling study bill in the Senate that would have made a mockery of the legislation. Perhaps the light of the Post article today shone too brightly on this disgraceful show because the Senate bill was pulled from the markup.

But the fingerprints of the gambling industry are all over the current effort in the Senate to stop the National Gambling Study Commission. Gam-

bling interests last year set up the Washington-based American Gaming Association headed by Frank Fahrenkopf, former chairman of the Republican National Committee, who the Post report says is being paid over a half million a year for his work. He, in turn, hired Kenneth Duberstein, former top adviser to President Ronald Reagan, and other Republican Party and Presidential aides, as well as a former Democrat Member of Congress and the former chief floor counsel to then Democrat Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, among others, to carry the water for the gambling industry and wield its money and power influence.

Just what did the gambling interests get for their high-priced and well-placed cadre of lobbyists? They have managed to rewrite the gambling bill that was ready for markup today in the Senate with amendments which would turn the study commission into a library study group with no power to convene investigative hearings, no power to subpoena information, no authority to do any original research and confined to only reviewing information that already exists, and with a limitation to only make recommendations on Indian and Internet gambling.

And one more amendment from the gambling interests: the Commission is directed not to examine the economic impact of gambling on businesses, political contributions, the relationship between gambling and crime, a review of the demographics of gamblers, a review of law enforcement, a review of State, Indian and Federal gambling policy, advertising or other issues the Commission chairman may deem appropriate.

And a final amendment: for what is supposed to be an objective commission charged with the responsibility of studying the full effects of gambling on American society, the gambling interests successfully pushed their way to the study table with the amendment to provide that individuals with an interest in the gambling industry should be appointed to the Commission.

With these amendments, the National Gambling Study Commission may as well convene at the library and chat about the books the gambling interests check out to read. This is a sham and a disgrace and an insult to the American people who are being suckered in by an industry which thrives when it operates in the shadows, much like roaches which find their way around in the dark. When the light shines though, the gambling interests, much like the roaches, scurry to hide.

Money and power.

High-priced lobbyists and political connections at work to thwart an attempt to provide basic information to cash-strapped local and State governments being drawn into the promises of easy money from legalized gambling. Why are the gambling interests spending millions of dollars in political contributions and lobbying campaigns to