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Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People *** Program, now in its ninth academic year, has reached more than 70,400 teachers and 22.6 million students nationwide. Congressional members and staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers.

This extraordinary program is an excellent way for students to gain firsthand knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and assess its impact on both history and our lives. I commend these students and wish them success in their future endeavors.●

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WEEK

● Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, on February 1 of this year, the Governor of Tennessee, the Honorable Don Sundquist, signed a proclamation stating that April 14-20, 1996, would be known in Tennessee as National Association of Retired Federal Employees Week.

April 19 of this year marked the first anniversary of the bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City. A number of members from the Tennessee chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees faithfully volunteered their time and energy to help the victims and the community of Oklahoma following this tragic event. This spirit of contribution continues to distinguish civil servants, retired and employed.

It gives me great pleasure at this time to request of my colleagues to have printed in the RECORD a proclamation by the Governor of my State of Tennessee, the Honorable Don Sundquist.

The proclamation follows:

A PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Whereas, the United States Civil Service Act of 1883 was signed into law by then President Chester A. Arthur, thereby creating the United States Civil Service System; and

Whereas, the United States Civil Service Retirement System was created in 1920 and signed into law by then President Woodrow Wilson; and

Whereas, virtually every state, county, and municipal civil service system has developed from the Civil Service Act; and

Whereas, untold thousands of United States Civil Service employees have worked diligently, patriotically, silently, and with little notice to uphold the highest traditions and ideals of our country; and

Whereas, thousands of Federal employees are retired in Tennessee and continue to devote inestimable time and effort toward the betterment of our communities and state;

Now therefore, I, Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby pro-

claim the week of April 14-20, 1996, as National Association of Retired Federal Employees Week in Tennessee and do urge all our citizens to join in this worthy observance.●

DR. LOREN BENSLEY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Loren Bensley who is retiring from Central Michigan University after 33 years of dedicated service.

Dr. Bensley is a Michigander who has made the State proud. He received his bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University in 1958, and returned 4 years later as a member of the department of health education and health science.

Dr. Bensley leaves his profession as an internationally recognized scholar in the field of health education. He has published over 60 articles and given more than 100 presentations during his tenure. He has also served as president of the American School Health Association. Dr. Bensley has been recognized twice by CMU for his excellence and has received 32 awards from various professional organizations for his leadership.

Dr. Bensley served as chapter adviser to the Eta chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma, the national health science honorary organization. Under his guidance, the chapter won the National Chapter of the Year Award 10 times.

After the end of the current semester, Dr. Bensley and his wife, Joy, will retire to their farm in Northport, MI. I know that my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Bensley on his many years of service.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE RONALD DAVIES

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, in recent weeks we have mourned the passage of two great Americans, former Senator and Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, and Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown.

However, little note was given to the passage of another man whose contribution to America's history and future may rival those of the better known men mentioned above.

I refer to Judge Ronald Davies, who died in Fargo, ND, April 18.

Appointed to the Federal bench in 1955 by President Eisenhower, Judge Davies served the Federal judicial district of North Dakota for 35 years. But his career will be remembered most by a decision he handed down nearly four decades ago.

In September 1957, Judge Davies was called to Arkansas to make a difficult ruling—one that has changed America forever. Mr. President, on September 7, 1957, Judge Ronald Davies of North Dakota ordered the immediate integration of the Little Rock, AR school system.

What followed that ruling was, and is, history. Many angry white residents

of Little Rock, incited by anti-integrationists such as Gov. Orville Faubus, opposed the order and kept their children home from school. They vowed to keep African-American children out of the all-white high school—by violent force, if necessary. President Eisenhower responded by ordering Federal troops to Arkansas to keep order and escort the nine young African-American students to Little Rock's Central High School.

That decision, Mr. President, by a North Dakota judge in an Arkansas courtroom, began a new era of race relations in America. No longer were separate but equal schools—which were always separate but seldom equal—good enough in America. All citizens were entitled to equal treatment under the law, and that included an equal opportunity in public education.

Today, Mr. President, race relations in this country are far from ideal. However, few of us can imagine a return to the legalized segregation that existed before Judge Davies made his ruling in 1957.

Judge Davies was buried Monday, April 22, in Fargo. North Dakota lost a man of courage and conviction. America lost a piece of its history.

To the 5 children and 20 grandchildren he leaves behind, I send my deepest condolences, and our country sends her thanks.●

THE OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

● Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, last week we voted on an omnibus bill that completed our long-delayed work on fiscal year 1996 appropriations. This legislation's arduous and agonizing history defies belief—particularly since all sides claim to be committed to reducing the Federal deficit and balancing the Federal budget.

However, I want to point out two egregious provisions in this legislation. They particularly disturb me because I share my colleagues' interest in balancing the budget. These provisions also trouble me because they will increase Medicaid spending—and therefore crowd out discretionary programs within this year's spending bill and in the future. Under the mantle of fiscal conservatism—the premise of this appropriations bill—we are providing additional Federal dollars to States that have won political favor. We are spending hard-earned tax dollars in these States, but will not see an improvement in their health systems nor any other public good that will benefit American taxpayers. Although Republicans claim that they want to control Federal spending, the reality does not live up to their rhetoric.

The omnibus appropriations bill includes State-specific provisions that permit two States—States that blatantly abused Federal matching rules in the past—to draw excessive Federal Medicaid payments. According to a host of independent analyses, the disproportionate share hospital [DSH]

schemes used by these States and others nearly single handedly created double-digit increases in Federal Medicaid spending in the early 1990's. Congress shut down these schemes in 1991 and 1993 by creating State-specific and hospital-specific limits on DSH payments. However, through Republican maneuvering under this omnibus bill, two States that relied on these schemes will once again disproportionately benefit from the Federal Treasury.

First, New Hampshire will receive Federal matching payments for the disproportionate share hospital payments it made last year to a State-owned psychiatric hospital, even though these payments violate the hospital-specific limits enacted in 1993. The Department of Health and Human Services has deferred making Federal matching payments because these DSH payments normally would not be allowable under Medicaid matching rules. The omnibus appropriations bill would allow New Hampshire to receive matching payments up to \$54 million, whether these payments are allowable or not.

In addition, although the majority intended to provide a fix only for New Hampshire, other States may also qualify under this provision.

Second, Louisiana will receive a guaranteed Federal payment of \$2.6 billion—even though it will not be putting up the State dollars necessary to claim these matching payments. This provision, in essence, provides Louisiana with a higher Federal matching rate than allowed under current law, simply because Louisiana is unwilling or unable to commit sufficient State funds to support its existing Medicaid Program. Louisiana also used DSH scams to draw enormous Federal Medicaid payments and is now facing a budget shortfall under current, tighter rules. CBO initially estimated that this fix will cost the Federal Government an additional \$900 million through 1999. Late-breaking negotiations have shortened the time-frame and lessened the Federal cost in the out-years. However, increased spending still will not be offset because the increase occurs later than fiscal year 1996.

In 1991 and 1993 Congress chose to close down some States' creative book-keeping schemes and construct reasonable limits to the disproportionate share hospital program. These appropriations provisions will undermine those important protections for the Federal Treasury. If congressional Republicans were serious about limiting Federal spending, they would have refused to include these give-aways in this appropriations agreement. Instead, Congress will provide additional funding with no additional gain to American taxpayers.

The Republican Governors say that they can control Medicaid spending themselves—and they have clamored for Federal block grants to do so. Yet the Republican Governors in these two States sought these exceptions to Medicaid law. These legislative fixes signal

that the Republican Governors in these States cannot even live within existing limits that control only one aspect of the Medicaid Program. If Medicaid block grants were to be enacted, we should expect a deluge of formula fixes in the future.●

RELIEF OF NATHAN C. VANCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Further, for our leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 383, S. 966.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 966) for the relief of Nathan C. Vance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the bill (S. 966) was deemed to have been read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 966

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PAYMENT TO NATHAN C. VANCE.

(a) PAYMENT.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary of Agriculture shall pay \$4,850.00 to Nathan C. Vance of Wyoming for fire loss arising out of the Mink Area Fire in and around Yellowstone National Park in 1988.

(b) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay the amount specified in subsection (a) from amounts made available under section 1304 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) CONDITION OF PAYMENT.—The payment made pursuant to subsection (a) shall be in full satisfaction of the claim of Nathan C. Vance against the United States, for fire loss arising out of the Mink Area Fire, that was received by the Forest Service in August 1990.

AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Also, for our leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 381, Senate Resolution 217.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 217) to designate the first Friday in May, 1996 as "American Foreign Service Day."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the resolution (S. Res. 217) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble is as follows:

S. RES. 217

Whereas the American Foreign Service was established in 1924 and some 11,600 men and women now serve with the foreign affairs agencies of the United States at home and abroad;

Whereas the diplomatic, consular, communications, trade, development, and numerous other functions these men and women perform constitute the first and most cost-effective line of defense of our Nation by protecting and promoting United States interests abroad;

Whereas the men and women of the American Foreign Service are increasingly exposed to risks and danger to themselves and their families, even in times of peace, and many have died in the service of their country;

Whereas in this uncertain post-Cold War era, an ever-vigilant American Foreign Service remains essential to the strategic, political, and economic well-being of this Nation by strengthening the United States' relations with other countries and promoting a safer, more peaceful world.

Whereas the United States Government's foreign affairs agencies and the American Foreign Service Association have observed Foreign Service Day on the first Friday in May for many years; and

Whereas it is both appropriate and just for the country as a whole to recognize the dedication of the men and women of the American Foreign Service and to honor those who have given their lives in the loyal pursuit of their duties and responsibilities representing the interests of the United States of America and of its citizens: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commend the men and women who have served or are presently serving in the American Foreign Service for their dedicated and important service to country;

(2) honor those in the American Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty; and

(3) designate the first Friday in May 1996 as "American Foreign Service Day".

The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and the Federal, State, and local administrators to observe the day with the appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1996

Mr. GRASSLEY. Also, Mr. President, for our leader, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 1; further, that immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be dispensed of, the morning hour be deemed