

happened over the issue of Medicare over the past 6 months as this administration and this President specifically have consistently misrepresented the Republican position and have failed to step up to the plate to address what is a critical issue for seniors. Basically this administration can no longer hide on the issue. The fact is their trustees have said it is going to happen, and now their actuary has said it is not only going to happen, but it is happening. It is happening in reality. We are now into a bankruptcy spiral in the Medicare trust fund.

So, Mr. President, I suggest you stop running for reelection and that you sit down and do the job you are paid for, which is to come forward with a proposal which puts the Medicare trust fund back in balance or, alternatively, accept ours.

Mr. President, I thank you for your time.

Mr. BURNS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I might be yielded 5 minutes as if in morning business.

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

Mr. BURNS. I thank the Chair.

THE RETIREMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE PAT WILLIAMS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to salute my colleague from Montana, Congressman PAT WILLIAMS.

PAT surprised all of us last month when he announced he would not seek his 10th term in the U.S. House of Representatives. PAT says he wants to get back to Montana to do a little fishing and hiking. Well, few people know better than me what it is like to miss Montana, so his announcement—although unexpected—was understandable.

Mr. President, it is no secret that PAT WILLIAMS and I come down on opposite sides of just about every issue. He is a New Deal liberal and proud of it. While I may not always like where he stands, at least I know where he stands. I respect him for that and I think the people of Montana do too.

Despite the differences between us, I think there is a unique civility in the Montana congressional delegation. Our debates over the years have been passionate and heated, but I believe they have never been personal. PAT has been a worthy adversary during my 7 years in the U.S. Senate, and I will miss that relationship.

This does not mean that PAT and I were not able to come together on some issues. In fact, when outsiders tried to impose there will on Montana, I would bet that PAT and I were on the same side more often than not.

We both agree that fair trade does not always mean that our neighbors to the north can run roughshod over the Montana farmers and businesses. We

both agree that NAFTA and GATT are bad news for Montana. Any State that is on the border feels the effect of that. We both agree that our Nation's job-training programs need to be streamlined and consolidated. We both agree in the need to repeal a federally mandated speed limit, of which my State caught a little criticism. And even though he supported his President, he broke ranks with his Democrat colleagues by opposing the Brady bill and the President's crime bill.

So, Mr. President, I commend PAT for his service to my home State of Montana. In addition to his legislative duties, he has been a servant of our constituents. Montanans of all stripes could count on PAT to answer their questions. They might not have liked the answers all of the time, but he always answered them. And when they had problems with the Federal Government, he was there, too. So for 18 years he has traveled one of the largest congressional districts—both the western district when he first came to Congress, and then, of course, the full State in the last two terms. So I think he will be missed by the State of Montana.

This kind of public service can take its toll on a person. PAT would show up at countless meetings, and I can remember them. There might be 5 or 500; it did not make any difference, PAT was always there.

So I wish him the best as he chooses retirement. If you come across him fishing in one of our prized trout streams in Montana or hiking a scenic trail, I hope you tip your hat and say, "Thanks, PAT, for a job well done here in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress."

THE FARM BILL

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I want to talk a little bit about the problem before us; that is, trying to get a farm bill through this Congress. We are not very far away, even though the snowflakes are flying around us in the northern part of the hemisphere, it will be soon that we will see the combines starting to roll in Texas. We are just finishing planting our spring wheat in Montana when the combines start in Texas. We still do not have a farm bill or a farm policy.

A lot more people live in urban areas than farm, but it is pretty important to us in this country because the first obligation of any society is to feed itself. I have always made the speech that the second thing we do every day is eat. I do not know the first thing you do. You have a lot of options the first thing in the morning, but the second thing is you eat. We do a pretty good job of it in this country, but the main challenge for all of us, both in Government and in our commodity groups that represent the livestock industry or the grain industry or the fresh vegetable industry or the nut industry or the fruits and vegetables that are

grown in this great and plentiful Nation is to make sure that we get at least a fair share of the consumer dollar back on the land.

Would it surprise you to know that only 3 cents out of every consumer dollar spent for food is all that gets back to the farmer? We are to the point where we cannot hardly make it on 3 cents out of every dollar. There is a little imbalance here—\$3.46 a pound for Wheaties in the grocery store, and up until this year we were having a hard time getting \$3.46 for a bushel of wheat of which there is 60 pounds. I have a hard time relating \$5 T-bone steaks to \$60 fat cattle. Maybe I am in the wrong business, or I understand the other business, but it is about time our processors, purveyors, our distributors, and our retailers understand that we have to give something back to the man who produces the raw product.

There are a lot of automobiles and a lot of boats and a lot of vacations that are paid for because we only expend about 16 percent of our expendable income on food in our homes to feed this society. We are truly a blessed Nation, but we still need policy for food and fiber in this country. And, of course, with 1 farmer feeding 120 other folks both in this country and abroad, it makes it a very large industry. This bill changes the direction and the culture of farm programs.

In the Freedom to Farm Act, yes, there are some areas I would like to change. Nobody ever gets a perfect bill. But nonetheless, we have to take a look at it and see what it really does, if it gives our business people who live on our farms and ranches the flexibility to operate their farms and ranches the way they think they should and also at a profitable level.

I know if I had to go back to agriculture, where I was raised—on 160 acres of 2 parts rock and 1 part dirt in northwest Missouri—I probably could not make a living now, but I know some people are trying to and it is a struggle. This particular bill helps out those folks. It moves us into a marketing mode and takes us away from a program that is dependent on the Government. We are not going to take the full step all at once. And to my critics who say this does not go far enough to eliminate guaranteed subsidies to agriculture, I say we have to take it maybe one step at a time. At least let us change the structure. Let us change the structure in which our farmers and ranches can operate and still provide food and fiber for this Nation.

Foreign market development is a good investment just like education is a good investment. As for ARS, the Agriculture Research Service, I happen to think we must never stop doing research in food production. Maybe a lot of folks do not know this either, but for the first time in the history of agriculture production in this country yields of wheat are declining just a little bit. Why? Because we do not have the plant breeders and the scientists

developing strains that are disease resistant. We have to continue to do that in order to keep our production up. The same thing is true in our corn, soybeans, barley, and some other feedgrains. So we need to make that investment in the Agriculture Research Service.

The Export Enhancement Program, I am not a great fan of that, but it is retained in this bill. That is to ward off unfair competition in the international market. I think those dollars ought to go directly to the people who produce the grain, not the people who handle the grain or the big grain companies. It should get back to the farmer some way or other.

So, no, it is not a perfect bill. On the conservation end of it, the CRP is very successful, taking marginal land out of production, the development of wetlands. I know in Montana our bird population, our wildlife numbers have increased since CRP, the Conservation Reserve Program, has been put into effect. That is very good in taking some marginal land out of production that should never have been in production in the first place. We have noticed that. It has great support.

So here is a program that is supported by agriculture. Farmers are telling me, "Let's go with it." It sends us in a new direction. But we are also talking about a time when agriculture commodities are doing very well with the exception of the cattle business. And there is some room for development here in our part of the country.

So I urge a "yes" on this cloture vote. Let us proceed with this bill and debate it like it should be debated and pass those programs that can be passed, but let us at least give agriculture a program to which we can pin our future.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DOLE. We are about to get an agreement on the cloture vote here.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—CLOTURE VOTE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the substitute occur at 4:10 today, the time between now and then to be equally divided between the distinguished chairman, Senator LUGAR, and Senator LEAHY, or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. LUGAR. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

IN HONOR OF GENE FISCHER

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, the job of a news photographer is not an easy one. For every picture of a child enjoying building a snow man with her parents—there is a picture of a crime scene or a picture of a car wreck. Only the photographers themselves truly understand how tough this job is, with the long hours and never knowing when or where they will have to go to do their job.

I rise today to honor one of the best news photographers our country has—Gene Fischer of the Helena Independent-Record—who retires today after 35 years to the day of chronicling the lives of Helenans and Montanans on the front page and sports pages of our newspapers.

My home town is Helena. Gene is the type of hard-working Montanan I have in mind when I say that we in public service need to focus on every day folks who work hard to make a living and serve their community. From his first job stuffing papers for the Billings Gazette in 1951, to his promotion to chief photographer for the Independent Record in 1974—Gene has kept his nose to the grind stone and worked hard.

He has achieved goals and worked hard to become the best he can be. His career and his drive are excellent examples for our children and students as they search for their mission and role in their lives.

It has become a popular thing to criticize the news media these days. Whether it be the hype of the O.J. Simpson trial, the goofy scandal-sheet shows, the Mc-News newspapers or hate-radio talk shows—I myself have been critical and remain critical of certain folks in the so-called news media.

But Gene Fischer is a newsman like few in the journalism and news industry of today. He is solid. He is compassionate. And he understands that the picture he takes and the images he publishes are those of his neighbors, friends, and family. It is a tough job, and he does it fairly and professionally.

When a Gene Fischer photograph publishes in the Helena Independent Record, Gene's name is very small—printed at the very bottom, almost unreadable. But in Montana journalism, Gene Fischer is a giant name. And I thank him for his years of dedication and service.

HONORING THE WEISS' FOR CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, these are trying times for the family in America. Unfortunately, too many broken homes have become part of our national culture. It is tragic that nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce. The effects of divorce on families and

particularly the children of broken families are devastating. In such an era, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "til death us do part" seriously and have successfully demonstrated the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity, to build a strong family. These qualities make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Donald and Mattie Bell Weiss who on January 20 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and will renew their wedding vows. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Don and Mattie's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized. I wish them and their family all the best as they celebrate this substantial marker on their journey together.

AMERICA'S WORKFORCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Markley Roberts, the Assistant Director of the Economic Research Department of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, recently gave the last of the 1995 Benedum Lectures on the subject "America's Workforce in the 21st Century" at West Virginia University.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of his remarks, along with biographical material, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REMARKS BY MARKLEY ROBERTS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH, AFL-CIO, IN THE 1995 BENEDUM LECTURE SERIES, UNIVERSITY OF WEST VIRGINIA, MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA—DECEMBER 6, 1995

AMERICAN WORKERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

I appreciate this opportunity to talk with you about American workers in the 21st Century. I bring to this discussion 40 years as a union member, elected union officer, and speaker for the AFL-CIO, a federation of 79 unions representing 13 million workers. So it's obvious that I have pro-worker, pro-union instincts.

We all share a common concern for political democracy, even though we may have differing views on how political democracy should affect social and economic justice. I hope you share these concerns, and also my concern for human rights and human welfare generally, as well as worker rights and workers' welfare.

We are blessed in the United States of America with wonderful traditions of freedom, democracy, and a drive for justice. Let me assure you that I appreciate what we have in America—but there's no resting place, there's no stopping the endless search for freedom, democracy, and justice, no stopping the endless battle against injustice.

It's not easy to define justice. I envy the judge who said "I can't define pornography, but I know it when I see it." Well, you have to look at a lot of pornography to know it when you see it—and you have to look at a lot of injustice—political, economic, and social injustice—so you can recognize justice when you see it.

LABOR FORCE PROJECTIONS

Our search for justice is endless because America is always changing. The racial