

yet again. The finger-pointing, epithet-throwing fracas between Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Texas) and Appropriations ranking member David Obey (D-Wis) demoralized Members just back from Easter recess, making the much-ballyhooed bipartisan retreat to Hershey, Pa., last month seem like just another empty feel-good session. These are senior Members of Congress, leaders in their respective parties. If they can't get along, who can?

The truth is: There's no joy in Mudville. Civility has struck out. Deadly serious disdain for the other party is the prevailing emotion, and total, no-holds-barred, take-no-prisoners warfare is the mode of combat encouraged, at least tacitly, by leaders in both parties. The crusade of Democratic Whip David Bonior (Mich) against Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga), Gingrich's own history as a backbench guerrilla warrior, and the revolutionary fervor of the GOP class of 1994 all contribute to this toxic atmosphere. It's no wonder that the recommended reading in the House Republican Conference these days is the Army's field manual.

It's also no wonder, then, that DeLay and Obey won't even apologize to each other for the incident—the most they say is that they regret it occurred. More regretful than the combatants themselves are many other Members in both parties who have tried to launch a grassroots civility movement inside the House. The Hersheyites, led by Reps. Ray LaHood (R-Ill) and David Skaggs (D-Colo), are trying to put the contretemps behind them with a full schedule of meetings, briefings for other Members, and reform proposals in the works. To that end, Rep. David Dreier (R-Calif) will even host a hearing next week on whether changes in the House schedule—such as moving highly partisan one-minute speeches to the end of the day—can improve the 105th Congress's civility quotient.

But the civility hounds face daunting obstacles that we're not sure scheduling changes can fix. Members who so obviously detest each other will continue to do so—whether they spar on the House floor at 10 a.m. or 10 p.m. Hearings into Clinton White House fundraising this summer will raise the decibel level. Budget posturing will bring extremists from both parties into a pitch of rhetorical excess. And the list of challenges to civility goes on.

Maybe the answer is for Members not to take themselves so seriously. Silvio Conte never did. And he actually liked his job. He didn't revile serving in Congress, and he certainly didn't detest Members on the other side of the aisle because their party designation was different from his. Conte's secret was that he had fun on Capitol Hill. It's time to put the joy back into politics.

TRIBUTE TO THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN T. WILLIAMS

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, according to Patricia Pair of The Shelby Sun Times, one of Germantown, Tennessee's newspapers, John T. Williams "has had a full, interesting life." Friends and colleagues call him John T., which is to say he's called nothing but John T.

John T. became a public figure when he served as mayor for the town of Trezevant, TN. There, he chartered the town's first Boy Scout Troop. After a few years, John T.

moved his family to Paris, TN, where he helped charter the community's first Chamber of Commerce. In fact, John T. served as the Paris Chamber of Commerce's first president, and is one of two living charter members of that organization.

In 1953, John T. sold his insurance business and moved his family to Jackson, TN. During that period, John T. was appointed by then President Dwight Eisenhower to serve as a U.S. marshal for the western district of Tennessee, serving from 1955 to 1960 with distinction and honor.

But serving as U.S. marshal was not to be John T.'s last task in government service. He ran for Congress, hiring as his campaign manager someone whom we all know as a U.S. Senator but in those days was still a little-known FRED THOMPSON. After his congressional bid and tutelage of young THOMPSON, John T. served on the civil service commission for the city of Memphis, and would go on to lend his vast skills and services to former Congressmen Robin Beard and Don Sundquist, as well as myself.

John T. has been an institution in numerous communities across west Tennessee. His record of public service stands as an impeccable example for all public servants. Along with those who have had the opportunity and pleasure of working and associating with John T., it has been an honor to have had him as one of my employees. John T., though we'll always have with us your many feats of volunteerism and helping hands, enjoy your retirement. You certainly have earned it.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) establishing the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for the fiscal year 1998 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I support the Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997. I want to commend the chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. KASICH, and the ranking member, Mr. SPRATT, Members on both sides of the aisle for their hard work in putting together this bipartisan agreement, and especially my "Blue Dog" colleagues in the coalition. Most everyone around here knows that this legislation couldn't have been developed without the centrist foundation we provided in the Blue Dogs' commonsense balanced budget plan.

Mr. Chairman, the American people want this to get done, and I intend to lend my support to passing this resolution through the process. A balanced budget is long overdue. I'm not happy with all of the details, but the moment is at hand and we need to pass this now.

I would rather be supporting the Blue Dog budget, but nobody got everything they wanted in this process, and I understand that.

However, I am very disappointed by the Republican leadership's refusal to allow the coalition Democrats to offer the alternative resolution we wanted to offer, which was the Republican bill plus strong budget enforcement language. As it is, I am concerned that this resolution lacks the strong budget enforcement language necessary to ensure that the spending caps and deficit targets are met and that we do in fact reach balance by the year 2002. It's one thing to say you will balance the budget by 2002—it is clearly another thing to actually do it. A strong enforcement mechanism is necessary to require the Congress and the President to take action if this plan goes off course, and the budget fails to meet its targets for spending and revenues. We should have had the opportunity to strengthen the enforcement provisions of the resolution we are now supporting. I am sure a majority of Members would have voted for stronger enforcement if they had been given the chance. Hopefully, this shortcoming can be remedied by the conference committee.

Two years ago when the Blue Dogs first offered their own alternative budget, I told people it was the sensible, middle ground and the foundation for a bipartisan agreement. Two years later, after a lot of hard work by all the Blue Dogs, as well as other Members and the President, we have essentially arrived right where the Blue Dogs started—on the sensible, middle ground, where compromise and bipartisanship have finally delivered what the American people have wanted for a long time—a balanced Federal budget.

Again, I wish this Congress was going to get a chance to vote on the Blue Dog budget, but I recognize that democracy requires compromise, and that's what it will take from all of us to keep this process moving in the right direction.

This budget resolution is only a broad outline, and I know the Blue Dogs will continue working with Members on both sides of the aisle when the real work begins on a Medicare bill, a Medicaid bill, a tax bill, a possible budget reconciliation bill, and all of the 13 appropriations bills.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) establishing the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for the fiscal year 1998 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have had the privilege of serving in this body since 1981, and one of the first bills that I supported 16 years ago was a balanced budget. This is a goal that I have worked for year after year—and it is a goal that has eluded us until now. So I am gratified that the Congress has taken a dramatic first step this week toward achieving that goal by passing the budget resolution.

It has taken us years to come this far—and it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of many current and former Members of

Congress that this goal is finally within our grasp. We have a chance to return fiscal accountability and responsibility to the Federal Government and set a course that will ensure our Nation's well-being into the 21st century. We have a chance to preserve the American dream for our children and grandchildren and help ensure that their future is as bright with promise as was ours.

I thank all my colleagues who have worked so hard to achieve this goal, and I command the coalition leadership which has played an important role in this endeavor in both the 104th and 105th Congresses. But we must be careful that what we do in the final analysis will be fair to all Americans, will be equitable, and will be enforceable. The tough choices lie ahead in the coming weeks, so we have much work yet to do. This week marks an important beginning—but a beginning that has an achievable end in sight.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleagues for their commitment to balancing the budget and their work thus far, and I want to urge continued bipartisan support as we try to make the right choices in the coming weeks and choose the best means to accomplish that goal.

TRIBUTE TO AN ELOQUENT AND REASONED VOICE

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 19, the San Gabriel Valley lost one of its most eloquent and reasoned voices when longtime resident and business leader F. Al Totter passed away. Following is an article from the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, where Al Totter served as publisher for nearly 24 years:

F. Al Totter, who served as publisher of the San Gabriel Valley Tribune for nearly 24 years and led the development of a major suburban newspaper group, died Monday of complications from pneumonia at the Citrus Valley Medical Center, Queen of the Valley campus. He was 66.

Totter, who started working at the Tribune as a classified ads manager on its first day of publication in 1955, served as publisher from 1968 to 1992. The Tribune's success—and that of its now sister papers the Pasadena Star-News and the Whittier Daily News, along with small community papers—reflected the residential and industrial boom of the region that it served.

"More than any other person, Al Totter was responsible for the strength and the growth of this newspaper group, especially of the San Gabriel Valley Tribune," said Ike Massey, publisher and chief executive officer of the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group. "I know he will be missed by many in the community."

Rep. David Dreier, R-San Dimas, a longtime Totter friend, said the region had lost its most eloquent and reasoned voice.

"He was the conscience of the Valley, and that really does describe him. He was an individual who cared deeply about the San Gabriel Valley, who cared deeply about his newspaper and the newspaper industry," Dreier said.

In 1982, Totter helped arrange the purchase of the Whittier Daily News by Thomson Newspapers, which had purchased the Tribune in 1968. Totter helped arrange Thomson's

1990 purchase of the Pasadena Star-News from William Dean Singleton, who had earlier purchased the paper from Knight-Ridder Co. He was president of the newspaper group when he retired in 1992.

Since 1996, all three newspapers have been part of the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group, owned by Denver-based MediaNews Group Inc., of which Singleton is president and CEO.

Dreier said he maintained contact with the publisher through the years, and had called him Monday after hearing from Totter's son-in-law that he was not in good health.

"I am just stunned in light of the fact I just called him this afternoon," Dreier said.

Steve Cox, Totter's son-in-law and the family spokesman, called him a "special husband and father."

"His guidance to his daughter, his son-in-law, and to his grandchildren will be remembered for their lifetimes," Cox said. "He was an extra special person and very dedicated to the family."

Born Sept. 4, 1930 in Joliet, Ill., Totter worked as a department store clothing salesman and a truck driver to pay his way through college, where he studied journalism and advertising.

He got his start in the newspaper industry in 1951 selling advertising for the Herald News in Joliet, then moved to California with his wife Shirley, who survives him.

Totter enlisted in the Air Force and served at Edwards Air Force Base during the Korean War. After his military discharge, he moved to Fullerton and worked as classified ads manager for the Daily News Tribune. He joined the newly established San Gabriel Valley Tribune in 1955 in the same capacity.

At the time, the San Bernardino (10) Free-way had just opened, paving the way for rapid growth in the San Gabriel Valley. Totter was one of a group of newspaper professionals who brought together several east Valley weekly papers to create the daily Tribune.

Totter was named business manager and vice president in 1961, when the paper was sold to Brush-Moore Newspapers centered in Canton, Ohio.

He served as general manager until 1968, when Brush-Moore Newspapers was purchased by Toronto-based Thomson Newspapers. Thomson named Totter publisher, a position he held until retirement in January 1992.

Totter helped lead Thomson's acquisition of many newspapers, including the Whittier Daily News. The company owned more than 160 daily newspapers in North America during the 1970s and '80s. He also served as an officer in the California Newspaper Publishers Association and California-Nevada Associated Press Association.

"He was very well respected in the journalism community in California and certainly played a major role in the growth and evolution of the Thomson newspapers in California," said Andy Lippman, chief of The Associated Press Los Angeles bureau.

He was a cost-conscious newspaper executive who knew how to turn a profit even during recessions.

Dick Terrill, who was circulation director and advertising manager under Totter, called the late publisher an "icon." Under Totter's direction, the Tribune and Whittier Daily News were the most profitable newspapers in the Thomson chain, he said.

"He was a very good businessman, and the papers did very well," said Terrill, now with the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group's Specialty Division.

Both the region and newspaper industry went through enormous changes during Totter's tenure as publisher.

"I have had the privilege of watching the newspaper industry move from the hot metal

(Linotype-produced metal type) to computers and modern offset presses," Totter said upon his 1992 retirement. "It was an honor to be able to say that I started with this newspaper and to see it grow and find an important place in the San Gabriel Valley."

Totter was also known throughout the industry as a tough negotiator in contract talks with old newspaper labor unions. He was also a tough boss with only one speed: fast.

"He walked fast, he thought fast, he talked fast and to most of his employees he was a very intimidating, imposing figure," said Bill Bell, editor of the Whittier Daily News. "I have interviewed many highly placed people in my 40 years in journalism and believe Al Totter is the most intimidating man I ever met. But, he could smile, joke, laugh and be quite charming when he wanted."

Pat Pahel, who served as Totter's secretary for his last five years, said the late publisher also had a compassionate side for employees, recalling a time when Totter helped one employee find proper medical care for a gravely ill child.

"He always knew who to get in touch with," Pahel said.

Totter was a leader in the San Gabriel Valley community, participating in such organizations as the West Covina Rotary and the South Hills Country Club.

Totter also was credited with playing a key role in the growth of the Life-Savers, a foundation that started in 1988 when a Covina doctor could not find a suitable bone marrow donor for his leukemia-stricken wife.

That prompted Dr. Rudolf Brutoco to organize Life-Savers and start a drive recruiting donors for people suffering with blood diseases. It grew into a national movement.

"He understood his readers and he wanted his paper to reflect that, but he also wanted to reach out to them and challenge them and I think he did that with the Life-Savers story," Brutoco said. "I give him credit for getting Life-Savers off the ground."

Totter's concern extended to his wallet. In October 1990, he donated \$15,000 to the organization from advertising placed in a special supplement. Brutoco said Totter's concern even continued in retirement.

"He contacted me a year or two ago and asked if there was anything else he could do to further the cause," Brutoco said. "He did that even in his retirement."

He was also supportive of Republican politicians, such as Dreier, Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, who represents a portion of the San Gabriel Valley, and former West Covina mayor and City Councilman Forest Tennant.

Antonovich, who said he met Totter around the time the supervisor first ran for county office in 1980, said the two held the same philosophical views.

"He was a fiscal conservative who espoused family values . . . He did not apologize for his views," Antonovich said.

But Totter never hesitated to let his political friends know when he disagreed with them and definitely knew his facts. Tennant recalled when the two clashed over a plan to install waste-burning, energy-producing facility in Irwindale during the mid-1980s.

"He not only called me up and told me I was wrong—and dead wrong—he convinced me that I was going to head the committee to oppose it, which I did," said Tennant, chuckling at the memory.

San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group Editorial Page Editor Steve Scauzillo recalled that Totter hired him as an environmental writer when such beats were still rare in newsrooms.

"Very few newspaper publishers supported a full time environment writer in the 1980s