

Sadly, New Hampshire Republican Sen. Judd Gregg was not stretching it a bit when he questioned whether Dick Morris would have a role in any population sampling conducted by this administration.

Having politicized everything in sight, from the White House Travel Office to international trade missions at the Commerce Department (which, by the way, also oversees the Census Bureau), President Clinton now criticizes the Republican Congress for "weighing [the disaster-relief bill] down with a political wish list." One provision that upsets Mr. Clinton would prohibit the Census Bureau from employing statistical sampling techniques to adjust the 2000 census, which, among other things, would be used to determine the population of states for the purpose of apportioning congressional seats and distributing federal dollars. For the first time ever, the Clinton administration wants to use sampling to adjust the "actual enumeration" that the Census Bureau obtains in 2000 from mail-in forms and subsequent door-to-door data collections, proposing only to count 90 percent of the population and apply statistical projection to the remaining 10 percent.

Everybody agrees that the census is not accurate. Supplemental research after the 1990 census revealed that about four million people, 1.6 percent of the U.S. population, were not counted. According to that sample, 2.3 percent of Asian-Americans (173,000), 4.4 percent of blacks (1.40 million), 4.5 percent of Native Americans (96,000), 5 percent of Hispanics (1.16 million) and 0.7 percent of non-Hispanic whites (1.33 million) were not counted in 1990. Contrary to popular belief, however, undercounting is as prevalent in rural areas as it is in urban areas. The Clinton administration, backed by the American Statistical Association, the Association of American Geographers and the National Academy of Sciences, argues that the use of sampling would produce the most accurate, cost-efficient census. Even the Census Bureau admits, however, that introducing sampling may simply substitute one type of error for another.

Moreover, even if sampling is more accurate, it addresses neither the political question nor the constitutional question. Politically, potentially two dozen House seats lie in the balance—meaning, for all practical purposes, majority control of the House, its agenda and all the committee and subcommittee chairmanships. Why should a Republican Congress commit political suicide by relinquishing its authority over the census to a hyper-politicized administration that has treated the Census Bureau's parent, the Commerce Department, as the Democratic National Committee's (DNC) soft-money subsidiary? The fact is that the Secretary of Commerce office has been occupied for five years by a who's who of Democratic fund-raisers: former DNC Chairman Ron Brown, California money maven Mickey Kantor and Chicago rainmaker William Daley. Looking for a place to stuff the likes of John Huang, Mr. Clinton appropriately selected Commerce.

This is hardly idle speculation. As the non-partisan Statistical Assessment Service observed recently, "[O]nce the sampling precedent is set, what is to prevent us, in principle, from lowering the actual enumeration from 90 percent to 80 percent or 70 percent or lower? . . . This creates a powerful temptation for the party in power to skew the sampling adjustment its way. The ability to 'create' or 'eliminate' millions of strategically placed citizens with the stroke of a pen introduces a potent and disturbing new political weapon . . . and a dangerous new set of political temptation."

Constitutionally, the Supreme Court only last year (Department of Commerce v. City

of New York et al.) confirmed that the Constitution confers wide authority and discretion upon Congress in conducting the census. The Court unanimously ruled that former Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, by virtue of authority delegated to him by Congress, properly refused to adjust the 1990 census to correct its undercount. Interestingly, the Clinton administration argued on behalf of Mr. Mosbacher's use of the authority Congress had delegated to him. Now, Congress merely seeks to exercise its authority. Moreover, it is by no means certain that the Supreme Court would permit a census to be adjusted by sampling. The Constitution mandates an "actual Enumeration," and last year's Supreme Court decision did not address this issue. As a practical matter, any cost savings from sampling would be overwhelmed by a Supreme Court decision rejecting the practice.

If the Clinton administration has demonstrated it cannot be trusted to process citizenship applications of immigrants properly—heretofore a very nonpolitical undertaking—how can it be remotely trusted not to politicize "a potent and disturbing new political weapon"?

HONORING GREEK-AMERICANS

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a vital, but far too frequently unacknowledged, segment of the American mosaic: Greek-Americans.

In their short existence in this Nation as an ethnic group, they have excelled in every field that they have applied themselves. From business to the arts; from athletics to the media; from public service to education; Greek-Americans have made vital and lasting contributions to America's rich civic life.

The Pancretan Association of America represents a portion of the Greek-American community whose ancestry comes from a historic island of Crete. Throughout history, the people of Crete have valiantly fought to defend their soil, their heritage, religion, and democratic ideals against tyrannical invaders and occupiers.

True to these ideals, Cretan-Americans have proudly served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, defending the very same principles that have guided their ancestors throughout history.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring these historic Cretan-American veterans. They have fought with courage, honor, and conviction to preserve and defend the ideals that have bound the United States and Greece in a historic partnership for peace, stability, and democratic values.

MOTHER TERESA AND THE GOLD MEDAL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the pro-

found effect a recent event had on me. As a Roman Catholic serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, my heart swelled with pride when Congress awarded Mother Teresa the Congressional Gold Medal.

The rare ceremony took place in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol on June 5. Without question, it was one of the most powerful events I have ever witnessed.

Of course, one did not have to be Christian to take inspiration of the moment. Believers of many faiths crowded the space to see Mother Teresa, and to be moved by her prayer for the "poorest of the poor."

The Gold Medal is no ordinary recognition. It is the highest honor bestowed by Congress, approved by bill on behalf of the people of the United States.

Leaders of both chambers and parties were on hand as Representative HENRY HYDE described the one he called a living saint. "You believe that every human being, no matter how abandoned, no matter how poor, no matter how 'useless' or 'inconvenient,' * * * is an image of the invisible God, is invested with an innate and inalienable dignity and value, and thus commands our attention, our respect, and our care, and you have poured out your life in the service to that belief."

Indeed, she has. The ministry she founded, the Missionaries of Charity, extends to 120 countries with 568 houses dedicated to the unwanted, the unclothed, and the unfed. In Calcutta alone she and her sisters have provided for the successful adoption of 8,000 children. Of the hundreds of Congressmen and Senators assembled before her, she asked only our prayers for her and her ministry.

"The more we help the poor, the more we honor God," she told us. She thanked America for the parents who have given the "gift of daughters and sons to do the work of missionaries, to serve the poor, to serve Jesus."

Instantly, my mind took me back to February 4, 1994. Mother Teresa was the keynote speaker at the annual National Prayer Breakfast. At my table were legislators from five other States and ambassadors from four foreign countries. Flanked by President Clinton and Vice President GORE, she delivered a speech that rocked Washington.

Amid her discussion of charity and the church's special preference for the poor, she quickly turned the topic, "But, I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child." A grenade of truth tossed into a room full of politicians, her remarks caused 3,000 of us to squirm in unison. I remember it as yesterday.

Then, she returned us to ease with the simplicity of her response. "Each child is created in the special image and likeness of God for greater things—to love and to be loved," she said. "I will tell you something beautiful. We are fighting abortion with adoption."

"Please don't kill the child," she begged. "I want the child. Please give me the child. I am willing to accept any child who would be aborted, and to give that child to a married couple who will love the child and be loved by the child." True to her word, her Sisters of Charity have yet to refuse a child, anywhere.

Mother Teresa is a profile in contradiction; a light in the darkness, strength among the weak, courage among fear. Standing at the seat of democracy, in the strongest nation of the world, the terms of secular power—military, economic, and bureaucratic—became tiny by her greatness.

Clearly endowed by God, the power of Mother Teresa's heart transcends the power of the world.

STATEMENT ON ALS RESEARCH, TREATMENT AND ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. WALTER H. CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, together with my colleague BEN GILMAN, I am today introducing the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis [ALS] Research, Treatment and Assistance Act of 1997. This bill is designated to assist individuals with ALS, encourage advances in treatment, and accelerate research support at NIH.

The terrible nature of ALS was recently brought home to me through a very close friend of mine, Tom Rogers, who is suffering from this disease. Tom has been an able and compelling legislator, and a leader in the environmental movement in Santa Barbara County. His struggle with this disease has been heroic and an inspiration to all who know him. During my campaign for Congress, Tom gave me his running shoes which he said he no longer had any use for due to the debilitating aspects of ALS. I wore those shoes through the months leading up to my election. To this day, that gesture of friendship and support has continued to be a source of inspiration for me.

While most of us know of the famed baseball star for which this disease is named, many of us are unaware of the tragic consequences of Lou Gehrig's Disease. First diagnosed over 130 years ago, ALS is a progressive, fatal neuromuscular disease afflicting 25,000 to 30,000 individuals in the United States today. Approximately 5,000 new cases are reported every year.

Victims of the disease are struck by a creeping paralysis that eventually leaves them unable to eat or even breathe. There is no cure for ALS and researchers are just now beginning to understand what kills the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that lead to the disease's destructive effects. ALS usually strikes people in their 50's or later and life expectancy is a mere 3 to 5 years.

My bipartisan bill would waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility on the basis of disability for ALS patients. This is only fair since life expectancy following diagnosis is often shorter than the waiting period and most ALS patients will have paid into the Social Security system well before the onset of ALS.

Disabled people under age 65 are eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicare benefits. However, there is a 5-month waiting period from the onset of the disability until SSDI benefits are granted and then a further 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility. Unfortunately, since ALS patients' life expectancy is only 36 to 60 months, the 29-month waiting period leave them little time to participate in Medicare. This is unfair as most ALS patients have had productive working lives prior to onset of the disease and an estimated 17,000 of them are not age-eligible for Medicare. The cost of assisted living care and various effects of the disease can leave many patients' families financially drained. Victims of end stage renal disease, who experi-

ence a similar life expectancy as ALS patients, are granted this waiver.

The Capps-Gilman bill would provide Medicare coverage for outpatient drugs and therapies for ALS. This provision would ensure patient access to such treatments and help spur the development of new treatments for ALS. Currently, Medicare part B provides drug coverage for five other afflictions: oral cancer, clotting factors, immuno suppressives, osteoporosis, and hemophilia.

Finally, this legislation would double Federal funding of research into the cause, treatment, and cure of ALS. NIH-sponsored ALS research totaled only \$12 million in fiscal year 1996. Clearly, more must be done. Recent advances in ALS research have produced promising leads, many related to shared disease processes that appear to operate in many neurodegenerative diseases. Increased research funding for NIH can speed up work on these promising leads.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the support of my colleagues for this critically important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO U.S. WEATHER BUREAU'S NORTH ATLANTIC PATROL

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues: I would like to call your attention to a great service rendered to this country by the men who served as civilian weather observers with the U.S. Weather Bureau's North Atlantic Patrol during the Second World War. These men significantly impacted the success of D-day, and many other battles of World War II, and yet, they have never been given the public appreciation they so richly deserve.

One of my constituents, Mr. Ray McCool, told me of these men, serving in the North Atlantic Weather Patrol aboard Coast Guard vessels, who obtained and transmitted essential weather data to Washington, DC. As a result, they made possible the preparation of weather maps used throughout the war. In fact, their long-range forecasts provided vital information needed to plan the D-day invasion. Their knowledge and talents made an enormous difference in the success of the overall mission and ultimately in an Allied victory.

Their service was not without danger and sacrifice. Under the Geneva Convention Articles of War, the rules for treating military prisoners did not apply to civilians. Therefore capture by the enemy most likely meant being treated as a spy and shot. To prevent this, they were outfitted in Coast Guard uniforms, carried as chief petty officers and enlisted into the service as "U.S. Coast Guard Temporary Reserves."

If capture by the enemy wasn't worry enough, they had the high seas and enemy ships to face. A typical mission took these men out to sea for 4 to 6 weeks at a time where they dealt with hurricanes and attacks from depth charges, U-boats, and German submarines.

To date, the United States have never fully recognized the invaluable job these civilian weather observers performed.

Today, let the record show we salute these unsung heroes and acknowledge their service

to our Nation. Further, in order to show our proper recognition, I am recommending that each local veteran's office present a U.S. flag to the family of a deceased member of this elite ensemble of men. In the face of danger and against the odds, these men stood tall and answered our country's call to freedom, and for that the United States of America is forever grateful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall Nos. 224, 223, 222, and 221 on June 20, 1997. Had I been present and voting, I would have noted in favor of these four amendments to the Defense authorization bill, H.R. 1119.

OPEN LETTER OF SENATOR NANCY KASSEBAUM BAKER AND VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CONCERNING BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 1997

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, last week two of America's most respected and distinguished senior statespeople, Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker and Vice President Walter Mondale, visited with several bipartisan reform leaders on Capitol Hill, including myself and several of my fellow cosponsors of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 1997. The purpose of their visit was to discuss an open letter they wrote to the President and to Members of Congress on the topic of campaign reform. For my colleague Representative CHRISTOPHER SHAYS of Connecticut and myself, I enter Senator Kassebaum Baker and Vice President Mondale's letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM NANCY KASSEBAUM BAKER AND WALTER F. MONDALE,
Washington, DC, June 18, 1997.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: In March, the President asked that we help in the cause of campaign finance reform. Since then we have observed closely the national discussion of this issue, which we believe is central to the well-being of American democracy. We would now like to report about our initial recommendations, with a plea, in the best interests of our political process, that the Executive and Legislative Branches commit themselves to a course of urgent debate leading to early and meaningful action.

One of us is a Republican. The other is a Democrat. We are inspired by the bipartisan efforts of Senators John McCain and Russell Feingold, and Representatives Christopher Shays and Martin Meehan, to achieve campaign finance reform. The bipartisan effort of new members of the House, led by Representatives Asa Hutchinson and Thomas