

such organizations as the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, the Metropolitan YMCA, Hancock Savings and Loan and the California Chamber of Commerce.

Eze will be sorely missed, but his legacy remains. We join the port community and our constituents in extending to him sincere appreciation and wishing him and his family every success as he assumes the critical job of president of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CRIMINAL WELFARE PREVENTION ACT, PART II

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. SHAW, Mr. BUNNING, Ms. DUNN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. HAYWORTH, and Mr. BURTON join me in introducing legislation—the Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part II—which will prevent the needless waste of taxpayer dollars.

Last year, the 104th Congress took an important step forward in this regard by enacting legislation that denies Federal SSI benefits to inmates of State and local correctional facilities. Although prisoners were not entitled to these benefits under existing Federal law, there was no way to match prisoners in local institutions with benefit checks mailed by the Federal Government. The Criminal Welfare Prevention Act—signed into law as part of last year's welfare reform package—creates a voluntary bridge between local sheriffs and the Federal Government, helping sheriffs identify ineligible individuals. This commonsense reform will save taxpayers millions of dollars—without imposing unfunded mandates or establishing new government bureaucracies.

However, there is still more work to do. Originally, the Criminal Welfare Prevention Act had aimed to deny local prisoners Social Security [OASDI] benefits as well, but these provisions were dropped from the final conference report to comply with Senate rules against making changes to OASDI in a reconciliation bill. Consequently, many local prisoners are still receiving OASDI benefits for which they are currently ineligible under Federal law.

To address this problem, we are introducing the Criminal Welfare Prevention Act, Part II. This bill will create monetary incentives for State and local law enforcement authorities to enter into voluntary data-sharing contracts with the Social Security Administration. This exchange of information will help get prisoners off our benefit rolls and will save taxpayers an estimated \$35 million by the year 2002. Under our proposal, if a participating local authority reports to the SSA that an incarcerated convict has received an OASDI check within the previous 30 days, that local authority will receive a cash payment of \$400. If the discovery is made within 90 days, the local authority will receive \$200. Again, participation in these contracts is purely voluntary—our bill will create an incentive structure, not an unfunded Federal mandate.

In this time of severe budgetary constraints, we strongly believe that Congress needs to

cut off this tremendously wasteful flow of scarce resources. Last Congress, the original Criminal Welfare Prevention Act attracted nearly 200 cosponsors, and its SSI-related portions are now law. The remaining OASDI provisions passed the House late last year as part of a Social Security Technical Corrections bill, but Congress adjourned before Senate action could be taken. Now is the time to finish the job. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this much-needed bipartisan reform.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, today Representative STARK and I are introducing legislation to correct what has become a significant problem for many Medicare beneficiaries. Under current law, when Medicare beneficiaries receive health care in a hospital outpatient department [HOPD], they are responsible for an average of 45 percent of the total payment to the hospital. Obviously, this is far more than the 20 percent copayment that was intended when the law was first enacted.

This problem arose because the Medicare law specifies that beneficiaries are responsible for 20 percent of what the hospital charges for services rendered in their outpatient departments, while Medicare only pays 80 percent of what it deems to be the reasonable cost for such services. Until the past few decades, costs and charges remained relatively the same. However, over the past few years, charges have risen much more rapidly than reasonable costs, causing a rapid rise in beneficiary coinsurance liability.

Our legislation will correct the problem by establishing a new payment system for HOPD's which will allow the beneficiary copayment to be fixed at 20 percent of a set amount and will also ensure that Medicare will be paying its fair share.

We recognize that reducing the HOPD beneficiary copayment liability will cause a loss in revenue for hospitals and will also cost the Medicare Program money as it begins to pay its fair share of HOPD services. We do not believe, however, that these are reasons to continue to force senior citizens to pay increasingly more than they should for HOPD services. We want to work with hospitals and with the Health Care Financing Administration to find a solution to this difficult and growing problem that faces millions of Medicare beneficiaries.

Our legislation will help to soften the blow to the Medicare Program by simultaneously correcting a problem in how Medicare pays for some HOPD services. Because of a flaw in the payment formula, called the "formula-driven overpayment," Medicare has been systematically overpaying hospitals for many services provided in HOPD's. While correcting the beneficiary coinsurance problem will cost Medicare money, correcting the formula-driven overpayment will help to mitigate the loss to the program.

I have introduced legislation in the past that would have corrected the beneficiary coinsur-

ance problem. I am hopeful that this Congress will recognize the importance of relieving Medicare beneficiaries of the unfair burden they are currently shouldering when they receive health care in hospital outpatient departments.

HONORING PAUL CLARKE

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, the residents of California's 25th Congressional District recently recognized the passing of one of their dedicated and loyal citizens, Mr. Paul Clarke. Consultant, radio newsman, media expert, husband, son, father, and grandfather, Mr. Clarke embodied the voice and vision of the residents of the San Fernando Valley. Remembered in Washington as the chief of staff of Congresswoman Bobbi Fielder, whom he later married, southern Californians came to know him as a man with a firm grasp on the pulse of the valley.

Instrumental in Washington to furthering a variety of issues important to the San Fernando Valley, Mr. Clarke became known as a talented political campaign consultant with an innate understanding of his community. Honest and forthright, Paul Clarke was an invaluable source of information for reporters and the news industry throughout southern California.

We will miss Paul Clarke's sense of humor, wit, intelligence, and friendship. Our prayers go out to our former colleague, Bobbi Fielder, as well as to all of Mr. Clarke's family. May the Lord bless and keep him well. In our hearts and thoughts, he remains.

THE LEGACY OF THE LATE HONORABLE PAUL TSONGAS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, while the House was in recess in January, a former congressional colleague, retired Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas died after complications from cancer. I was a long-time admirer of Paul Tsongas, especially for the wisdom with which he approached life and the value he placed on his family.

For many in public service, it often comes down to choices between the job and family. Do I attend the social event or go home for my son's birthday party? Do I go to the reception sponsored by a special interest group or attend my daughter's soccer tournament? With Paul Tsongas, there was no choice. Family came first and foremost.

For several years I have used the way Paul Tsongas lived his life as an example in my speeches about family values. One of my favorite quotes from him is that he "never heard anyone on their deathbed say, 'I wish had spent more time with my business.'"

What are our personal priorities? People generally serve in the Congress because they want to help other people. But we need to remember that while we serve in Congress trying to help others, we do not forget those who matter most to us—our families.

In some of my speeches I also use a quote by Dr. James Dobson from a book on the family. It says:

I have concluded that the accumulation of wealth, even if I could achieve it, is an insufficient reason for living. When I reach the end of my days, a moment or two from now, I must look backward on something more meaningful than the pursuit of houses and land and machines and stocks and bonds. Nor is fame of any lasting benefit. I will consider my earthly existence to have been wasted unless I can recall a loving family, a consistent investment in the lives of people, and an earnest attempt to serve the God who made me. Nothing else makes much sense.

That quote could very well describe the life of Paul Tsongas. Syndicated columnist Cal Thomas also recently highlighted Paul Tsongas' "Strong and Positive Legacy" and I would like to share that article with our colleagues. It certainly provides some food for thought for setting priorities in our lives.

A STRONG AND POSITIVE LEGACY

(By Cal Thomas)

When a person dies prematurely, it prompts us to stop and contemplate our own lives and whether we are spending our time, like cash, to indulge our wants, or investing in relationships that will pay lasting dividends.

Paul Tsongas, the former senator from Massachusetts, died last weekend of complications from cancer at age 55. Although we never met, and I was introduced to his wife Niki just once, Mr. Tsongas made a strong and positive impression on me.

In a town where power is king, Mr. Tsongas never paid homage to the sovereign. He was such an infrequent guest on the Washington party circuit that socialites knew better than to invite him for cocktails or dinner after work. Instead, he would depart his Senate duties as early as possible in order to be with Niki and his three daughters.

In a 1984 book called "Heading Home," Mr. Tsongas wrote, "Niki and I did not frequent the social circuit, and we knew it cost us. But the kids were more important to us than being regulars on Embassy Row or in hotel ballrooms." That's family values in practice.

He was equally open about his fears following the cancer diagnosis: "I felt totally alien. I was one of the select few in the United States Senate—the most exclusive club in the world. I did not want membership in a club of the afflicted."

Mr. Tsongas learned quickly that Washington is a town that loves you only when you're "up"; when you're down, you're out. He wrote, "most of Washington views people through the prism of title. Did my friends like me for my office? One could never know. And this doubt always had a corrosive effect upon our feelings."

Despite his upbeat demeanor following the cancer diagnosis (he demonstrated to the press how healthy he was by allowing cameras to show him swimming), Mr. Tsongas had been told by doctors 13 years ago that his form of cancer had never been cured and that the statistical average for life expectancy of people in similar cases was eight years. He beat the odds by five years.

Sometimes we get so caught up in political and philosophical divisions that we forget not only the humanity of those with whom we disagree, but that we might actually learn something from them if we take the time to listen.

"Heading Home" has had such a profound impact on this economic and social conservative that I have often quoted from it (most recently in an address to new members of the Congress from both parties), and my copy of

the 166-page book is well-marked and dog-eared.

How's this for baring your soul: "I was no longer the senator from Massachusetts. I was a frightened human being who loved his wife and children and desperately wanted to live." Or this: "In my desolation I had to reach deep into my beliefs. Those beliefs had never been sorely needed before—not like this. Now it would be different. God would be more a part of my life, no matter what happened. This was not a revelation or born-again experience. Not at all. Just a realization that while I had taken myself this far in life and done quite well, from here on I needed to recognize who was guiding me. I had to be more aware that one does not go through life without God's presence."

To me, the most moving part of Mr. Tsongas' book appears near the end after he's given an interview to a newspaper in which he speaks often of his love for Niki and his daughters. He turns to her and says, "You know, after 10 years in this town, all that I will be remembered for is the fact that I loved my wife."

"And what's wrong with that?" Niki replied.

In a time when reports of infidelity, allegations of ethical shortcomings and various scandals sweep Washington and the nation, what's wrong with that, indeed? Can anyone think of a greater legacy for his family or a better example for the rest of us? Or a better epitaph for Paul Tsongas?

ST. CLARE'S HOME: SERVING HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sister Clare Frawley and her St. Clare's Home, located in Escondido, CA, in my congressional district.

During the recent district work period, I had the privilege of visiting St. Clare's Home for myself. What I found was a true refuge where women and children in tremendous need could find real hope. In those tragic instances where people are victims of domestic violence, child abuse, or worse, in North San Diego County they have the loving arms of St. Clare's Home to find hope and rest. Furthermore, the St. Clare's Home staff work to prevent child abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse and sexual abuse in the community through educational and other programs. All together, St. Clare's Home provides emergency shelter, a maternity home complete with prenatal care and child-rearing education, a transitional program, a child care and learning center, substance abuse treatment programs, a counseling center, and much more.

I came away impressed and humbled by the love and care that Sister Clare Frawley and her staff put into the work of St. Clare's Home. They are truly doing the Lord's work in our community.

I ask that the following statement, a history of St. Clare's Home, be entered into the permanent Record of the Congress of the United States, as a thankful tribute to their staff's work in the community I represent.

THE HISTORY OF ST. CLARE'S HOME

In 1983, Sister Claire Frawley founded St. Clare's Home. Before that time there was no

shelter facility for homeless women and children in North County. Sister Claire recognized the urgent need when a young pregnant woman with two small children arrived at the door of her Youth Ministry. They had not eaten in two days and were in despair. There was no shelter facility to help them. Armed with a firm resolution and a prayer, Sister Claire took them home with her for the weekend. Shortly thereafter, she rented a house for this little family and another young mother in need. As they came to her door, the poor, the tired, the hungry and the hurt, Sister Claire found more beds and more food . . . and so Saint Clare's Home began.

From the very beginning, St. Clare's Home has been a community leader in the prevention of child abuse and domestic violence. 90% of St. Clare's residents come from domestic violence and sexual abuse with substance abuse addictions as a result of the street life they've endured.

It became the mission of Sister Claire Frawley to provide food, shelter, clothing, medical care, transportation, psychological counseling, continuing education, job skills training, encouragement and unconditional love. Most of St. Clare's young residents have never known unconditional caring or lived in an environment of emotional support. Their emotional response to these acts of kindness is simply overwhelming. Their letters and poems of gratitude, pictures and art decorate Sister Claire's office and the hallways of St. Clare's administrative office. Even St. Clare's Home logo is a loving reminder of a small child who simply drew a picture with the caption, "I love my home." This small picture appears on each piece of letterhead and business card at St. Clare's Home.

Over the years, St. Clare's Home has evolved into a public nonprofit non-denominational agency serving over 3,250 homeless women and children throughout the County. Today, St. Clare's operates eight residential shelter homes supervised by trained Case Managers and the Little Angels Learning Center for children's day care, play therapy and counseling services. The recent addition of a Counseling and Resource Center provided the opportunity to expand educational and program services. This new facility has served to enhance the women's perspective with broader exposure, motivated their desire for personal growth, assisted them in goal setting and achievement, and boosted their self confidence . . . all steps toward their ultimate goals: self worth and independence.

Homeless women and children may stay at St. Clare's Home for 2 years. Although predicting the time it takes to repair a broken spirit is nearly impossible, St. Clare's Home sets precedent for program longevity in San Diego County, providing aftercare services to assure a successful transition to independence. St. Clare's Home is funded by generous corporations like UPS, foundations, individuals and government grants. St. Clare's Thrift Shoppe receives inkind gifts and has the loyal support of longtime volunteers and service clubs.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the District of Columbia Economic