

State Assembly and was a trustee of Monmouth College, now university. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, and its law school, Judge Fisher was awarded the Justice William J. Brennan Award in 1989 from the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey.

Judge Fisher was a Monmouth County court judge from 1964 to 1966, and a superior court judge from 1966 until October 1970, when President Nixon named him to the Federal bench. Judge Fisher gave up the title of chief judge of the Federal courts in New Jersey in September 1987 after 8½ years of service, the longest tenure of any chief judge in the district. The next day, he returned on a voluntary senior status, handling a caseload comparable to an active judge until several weeks before his death. Among many other accomplishments, he was the moving force behind the construction of New Jersey's three Federal courthouses, including the Federal courthouse in Trenton named for him in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute to the life of Judge Clarkson S. Fisher. For his wife, Mae Hoffman Fisher, four sons, other family members, and his many, many friends, I hope the numerous expressions of praise and remembrance will be some consolation in their time of loss.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY JAKOV
URSICH!

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the family and friends of Jakov Ursich in wishing him a happy 100th birthday.

Jakov is reportedly the oldest living Croatian in San Pedro. But clearly his age does not slow him down. Even today, he is often seen at the Dalmatian-American Club dancing the polka.

Born in Selca, Brac, Croatia, Jakov came to the United States in 1921 looking for a better life. He left behind a wife, Marica, and child, Anka, and settled initially in Tacoma. In 1924, he moved to San Pedro, where he worked in the local shipyards until he became a commercial fisherman. Soon thereafter, Jakov became a United States citizen and then sent for his family. Within a few more years, Jakov's family grew with the birth of a son and another daughter. Now he enjoys the company of five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Jakov Ursich is a member of a very vibrant Croatian community in San Pedro. In the 73 years he has lived here, he has contributed greatly to its spirit and wealth. Indeed, he still lives in the house he built for his family more than 40 years ago.

On August 9th, his 100th birthday, Jakov will be surrounded by many friends and family members. I am pleased to lend my voice to the chorus of "Happy Birthday" that I know will be sung.

And, Jakov, many happy returns.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 1998 AND 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1757) to consolidate international affairs agencies, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes:

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Smith amendment and support of the Campbell-Smith amendment. To deny funding to multi-lateral and foreign nongovernmental organizations that engage in abortion-related activities with their own private funds is wrong. To suddenly terminate all U.S. funding for family planning worldwide under the United Nations Population Fund based on UNPFA activities in China, which do not exist, is punitive and without logic. And to prohibit foreign organizations from using their own funds to engage in legislative discussions and advocate for abortion-related issues is a gag rule in the worst form.

All of these provisions contradict our Nation's attempts to create healthy and prosperous communities across the world. Unfortunately, we are living in an era where family planning is not an option, but rather, a necessity. Providing education on conditions which may harm a woman's pregnancy, on ways to avoid ever even needing an abortion, on prenatal care, and on how to care for babies once they are born are all necessary components of family planning. This kind of education and the delivery of basic health care are needs that transcend politics.

I thank Mr. CAMPBELL and Mr. GREENWOOD for standing up for responsible foreign policy and making sure that this essential need for quality family planning is not stripped from the women and families who need it most. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the Campbell-Greenwood amendment.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
KARYNE JONES CONLEY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, six of my colleagues from the Texas delegation—Mr. BRADY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. GREEN, Ms. E.B. JOHNSON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON, and Mr. TURNER—and I all had the privilege of serving in the Texas Legislature prior to being elected to the U.S. Congress. During our respective tenures in the State Legislature, all seven of us were honored to know a wonderful lady—and native of San Antonio—by the name of Karyne Jones Conley, who served as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, District No. 120 of eastern Bexar County, from January 10, 1989, to July 10, 1996. From July 1996 to present, Ms. Conley—now relocated to the Washington, DC metropolitan area—has

served as director of Federal relations for S.B.C. Telecommunications, Inc., a post which has brought her great pleasure and personal satisfaction.

At the initiative of her former Capitol office administrative assistant, Mr. Gregory D. Watson of Austin, TX, who now serves in that same capacity for State Representative Leo Alvarado, Jr., also of Bexar County, the recently-concluded regular session of the 75th Legislature honored Ms. Conley with the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 320, which was presented in the Texas House by Representative Alvarado, and in the Texas Senate by State Senator Frank L. Madila, Jr. The resolution was then signed by Texas Governor George W. Bush on June 18, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, having known and having worked with Ms. Conley for many years in San Antonio, then in Austin, and now in Washington, DC, I, too, would like to pay tribute to this outstanding public servant. I respectfully ask that the full text of House Concurrent Resolution No. 320 be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as follows:

THE STATE OF TEXAS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 320

Whereas, The Texas Legislature is proud to congratulate former State Representative Karyne Jones Conley on her latest career achievements with SBC Telecommunications, Inc., in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, A native San Antonian, Ms. Conley earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Clark Atlanta University in Georgia and a master's degree in public affairs from Northern Illinois University; in 1995, she completed her second master's degree at Harvard University, focusing on the study of economic and political development; and

Whereas, Ms. Conley began her distinguished public service career in our nation's capital as a congressional aide to former U.S. Representative Andrew Young of Georgia, and when he was appointed by then-President Jimmy Carter to the post of Ambassador to the United Nations, the youthful Miss Jones served as Young's Public Affairs Officer at the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York City; and

Whereas, After returning to her hometown of San Antonio, Ms. Conley drew upon her deep interest in both education and the arts as Director of the Carver Cultural Center and as a grant writer for The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures; she also served as Program Developer for Continuing Education at San Antonio College, and in 1985, she was elected to her first public office, the East Central Independent School District Board of Trustees; and

Whereas, Highly regarded throughout the community for her professionalism, integrity, and dedication, this esteemed lady was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1988, representing eastern San Antonio and Bexar County and was re-elected without opposition in 1990, 1992, and 1994; during her four terms of office, Representative Conley demonstrated intelligence and leadership as a member of the Appropriations, House Administration, Corrections, and Judiciary committees, and she was tapped to serve as vice-chair of the House's Urban Affairs Committee; and

Whereas, Since July 1996, Ms. Conley has served with distinction as Director of Federal Relations with SBC Telecommunications, Inc., in Washington, D.C., and although this position has temporarily drawn

her away from her beloved San Antonio, her neighbors and many friends in the Lone Star State are hopeful that she will eventually return home; and

Whereas, In this, as in all of her endeavors, Ms. Conley has enjoyed the love and support of her family, which includes her husband, attorney Jim Conley, and four children: James, Jason, John, and Karyne Jalon; and

Whereas, Both in her personal life and in her professional service, the Honorable Karyne Jones Conley has exhibited an abiding concern for the well-being of her fellow Americans, and she is indeed deserving of recognition as she pursues this new chapter of her life; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 75th Legislature of the State of Texas, Regular Session, 1997, hereby congratulate former State Representative Karyne Jones Conley on her new position with SBC Telecommunications, Inc., and extend to her warmest best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

Resolved, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Ms. Conley as an expression of highest regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2015, BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I am voting for this bill because I believe it addresses many of the priorities and concerns of the American people. It sets us on a course toward a balanced budget while meeting the important needs of children, working families, and legal immigrants.

The bill provides \$24 billion to make sure that the most vulnerable among us, poor and uninsured children, have access to health care. This is perhaps its best feature. Using revenue from an additional tobacco tax, the bill enables States to provide Medicaid benefits for up to 5 million children who are currently uninsured.

The House-Senate conference report also undoes some of the harmful and unnecessarily harsh provisions contained in the welfare reform law. It restores disability and Medicaid for legal immigrants and extends food stamp eligibility for people making the transition from welfare to work. This bill also provides minimum benefits for refugees and asylees.

These provisions help mend holes in the safety net through which children, legal immigrants, and working poor were likely to slip.

This bill charts a path toward a balanced budget. Make no mistake, though—it assumes great spending discipline on the part of future Congresses in order to meet this goal. That discipline will be difficult—perhaps impossible—to sustain, and it would have made more sense to set a course that relies less on back-loaded cuts in later years.

If this conference report is more responsible, both fiscally and socially, than the original House bill, it also contains serious flaws. Most important, Medicare provisions fail to address the structural problems that threaten this program in the long term.

Cutting payments to hospital and providers is palliative, not curative. Very likely, many of

these cuts will be paid for through increased premiums on private insurance and other steps to pass costs on to other health-care consumers.

Two provisions, the Medicare savings accounts and the private fee-for-service plans, will likely skim healthier and the wealthier beneficiaries from the Medicare-risk pool. They will leave the program with higher costs but fewer dollars at the very time demand is ready to explode.

In addition to problematic cuts in Medicare, cuts in Medicaid unfairly single out those hospitals now serving the indigent. This will have a serious impact on Colorado hospitals in particular.

In short, if the conference report has much to recommend, it also leaves much undone and much that needs to be improved. And yet, on balance, Mr. Speaker, I believe the merits of this bill outweigh its failures and flaws.

I voted against this bill when it was first considered by the House; I am voting for the conference report. The conference report substantially improves the earlier bill and remedies most of the defects in last year's welfare reform law. It sets a course toward a balanced budget without putting the well being of citizens at risk. It deserves support.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRONX PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I rise to pay tribute to the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade, on its ninth year of celebrating the culture and contributions of the Puerto Rican community to our Nation.

The Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade will be held on Sunday in my South Bronx Congressional District. The event is the culmination of a series of activities surrounding Puerto Rican Week in the Bronx.

Under the leadership of its founder, Mr. Angel L. Rosario, and its president, Mr. Francisco Gonzalez, the parade has grown into one of the most colorful and important festivals of Puerto Rican culture in all five boroughs of New York City and beyond.

The parade brings together people from all ethnic backgrounds, including Puerto Ricans from the island and all across the Nation.

It is an honor for me to join once again the thousands of people who with pride will march along the Grand Concourse in celebration of our Puerto Rican heritage. The Puerto Rican flag and other ornaments in the flag's red, white, and blue will gracefully decorate the festival.

The parade ends at Joyce Kilmer Park, where live music, Puerto Rican food, crafts, and other entertainments await partakers. It is expected that this year's parade will surpass last year's half-million visitors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade on its ninth year of strengthening ties and bringing joy to the South Bronx community.

REAUTHORIZING ISTE

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, to bring to the attention of the House the importance of reauthorizing ISTE in a fashion that recognizes and maintains the important role of public transportation.

Even in my rural home State of New Hampshire, transit is a vital lifeline for many residents. In fact, a recent report entitled "Dollars and Sense: The Economic Case for Public Transportation in America", cites Advance Transit of Lebanon, NH, for its contribution to the economic vitality of Grafton County and neighboring Windsor County, VT. I would commend my colleagues' attention to the entirety of this report, which provides an impressive summary of mass transit's benefits.

In closing, I would like to again remind my colleagues that the benefits offered by public transit, and indeed all improvements to our Nation's transportation network, will be threatened without the necessary funding to reauthorize ISTE. As we all know, committing the revenues generated from transportation taxes to improvements to our Nation's public infrastructure, including transit, will allow our great nation to move forward with economic growth and prosperity.

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and celebrate the 85th anniversary of an organization that has been providing young women with skills and opportunities that enable them to reach their full potential, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

For nearly a century, the Girl Scouts have been empowering young women to make decisions that will enhance their life, to develop self-esteem, and make a contribution to their communities. The Girl Scouts are the largest voluntary organization for girls in the entire world, with more than 8,500,000 girls in more than 130 countries.

In particular, I want to recognize a special group of Girl Scouts from my district and the surrounding area, the Tierra del Oro Girl Scout Council. The Tierra del Oro Girl Scout Council serves more than 19,500 girls in fourteen counties: Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Solano, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba. I know that many of my constituents have benefited from belonging to such an outstanding organization.

This year, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America [GSUSA] celebrate their 85th anniversary. The Girl Scouts were founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, GA. Ms. Low's vision was hopeful and far-reaching: to provide opportunities and partnerships between young girls and adults, to