

INTRODUCTION OF WELDON RESOLUTION REAUTHORIZING A CITIZENS' COMMISSION ON CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce a resolution to reform ethics oversight in the House of Representatives.

This measure would establish a 14-member Commission on Congressional Ethics composed of private citizens, while eliminating most responsibilities of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. The resolution would grant the Commission power to investigate Member and staff ethics violations, sit and hold hearings, subpoena as authorized by the House, and report and recommend actions to enforce ethics to Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. Not only will this remove Members' conflict of interest in policing their colleagues, but it will give people a hands on role in shaping all the administrative operations of the House. The best way to reform the People's House is to get more of the people involved.

The American people want change and are demanding reform. It is time for us to act. This measure is not a complete solution to the public confidence crises, nor the last word of reform in this body. But it is a positive step in the right direction.

The recent investigation of the Speaker by the House Ethics Committee demonstrated the conflict of interest and the difficulties that will arise when Members must police each other. I believe this resolution will enable the process to work more effectively.

During the 104th Congress we made great progress in the area of institutional reform. This legislation will enable us to continue that reform and to strengthen America's trust in their elected representatives. I will press for adoption of this proposal in the House. I look forward to the support of all Members in this body.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX, for 50 years of excellence. As an alumnus, I am proud of the many contributions the University of St. Thomas has made to education and to our community.

Fifty years ago, the University of St. Thomas became the first independent, coeducational Catholic Basilian college in the United States. Rev. Vincent J. Guinan presided over a freshman class of only 40 students and a faculty of 8. Since then, the university has grown over fortyfold, with an enrollment of 2,500 students and 200 faculty.

But the University of St. Thomas has not just grown in enrollment, it has grown in importance. It is recognized as one of the top re-

gional universities in the country, offering a curriculum—from accounting and finance, to philosophy and theology—that attracts top students from around the country and around the world. The Cameron School of Business, opened in 1980, leads the way in teaching Houston's future business elite.

Over the past 50 years, the University of St. Thomas has flourished because of its commitment to not only education, but to the community. St. Thomas enriches Houston through a number of free lectures, exhibits, concerts, and seminars—all open to the public. Through these events, the University of St. Thomas has forged bonds to the community that can never be broken.

The University of St. Thomas has also led our community in architectural excellence. The main academic complex built in the 1960's is among the first works by world renowned architect Philip Johnson, who later designed much of the Houston skyline. It is only fitting that as St. Thomas achieves its half century mark that a new Johnson work, the Chapel of St. Basil, will close out the complex.

As a member of the class of 1982, I take great pride in commemorating 50 years of achievement at the University of St. Thomas. The people who have made St. Thomas what it is deserve our praise and our thanks.

The community's pride in the University of St. Thomas is reflected in the following editorial printed in the January 30 Houston Chronicle.

UST—FROM AN ACORN ON MONTROSE TO A SPLENDID UNIVERSITY

Since its humble founding 50 years ago, the University of St. Thomas has contributed much to the Houston community.

Nationally recognized as a top regional institution and one of the best buys in higher education, the University of St. Thomas has been the source of a fine education for thousands of students with its small classes and quality professors.

But it has been more than just a university of Houstonians. It also has given cultural and intellectual enrichment to the community through its numerous public lectures, concerts and exhibits.

Fifty years ago the Basilian Fathers, with the help and hard work of a group of dedicated laymen and laywomen, founded the university on Montrose Boulevard as an independent, coeducational Catholic institution of higher learning. The freshman class numbered 40. There were only eight faculty members. Today the University of St. Thomas has an enrollment of 2,500 students and 200 faculty. It offers 33 fields of study with a core curriculum in philosophy, theology, the humanities, social sciences, mathematics and science. The campus has grown to 22 acres, but the original building, the historic Link-Lee mansion, is still used.

A special dedicatory Mass on Friday marks the beginning of the university's 50th anniversary commemoration.

From a small acorn, a thriving university has grown, nourished through its commitment to instill a love for truth in its students.

Bricks and mortar do not make a university. People do. So as the University of St. Thomas begins commemorating its 50th anniversary, Houstonians should say well done to all the men and women who have made the university the splendid place and community asset that it is.

IN AN EFFORT TO SETTLE A PARTISAN SCORE, THE HOUSE SETS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

HON. SUE MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I fear that the passage of the resolution reprimanding Speaker GINGRICH has opened a Pandora's Box that may ultimately threaten the very integrity of this noble institution. While I support the report of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the reprimand, I feel that the monetary reimbursement is excessively severe and sets a dangerous precedent in the name of political expedience. It will mean that only the wealthy will be able to afford to serve in office.

There is a problem that should be of greater concern to all of my colleagues. The ethics process is in dire need of reform. We must all come together and create a swift, efficient, and fair new process. If we fail in this endeavor, the American people will slip even farther into the apathy that has gripped our political system for too long.

ENGLISH MUST BECOME OUR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, the notion that our Government should address all citizens in English and encourage all citizens to learn the language seems simple common sense. This is the primary reason that when the issue has been voted on in statewide referendums, it has not lost. California, Florida, Colorado, and my own State of Arizona have all chosen to make English their official State language. The bill I am introducing today, the Declaration of Official Language Act, follows State governments and localities in designating English as the official language of our Federal Government. It has the strong support of citizen organizations such as English First and the Veterans of Foreign Wars as evidenced by their letters of endorsement I have included for the RECORD.

Not only do many American people generally agree on the matter, but so do our Nation's immigrants and language minorities. The Latino National Political Survey data released on December 15, 1992, shows Hispanics, even recent immigrants, speak English and want their children to learn English. Hispanics agreed by more than 90 percent that U.S. residents should learn English to take full advantage of the services afforded to them. As these immigrants know, English is the language of opportunity in America.

Unfortunately, our Federal Government encourages official bilingualism. The practice of producing Government documents in multiple languages assumes that being given translations of official Government documents easily helps those who do not speak English. This logic goes against what bilingual individuals know all too well. Providing a word-for-word translation of anything between two languages is often impossible.

One area that this is most evident is in bilingual voting. The Voting Rights Act requires localities with populations over a certain proportion of the population to provide all materials in the language(s) of the affected populations, even if the language does not have a written form. This opens the door to fraud and misrepresentation of issues by interpreters. Inaccurate bilingual voting materials are a costly burden on State and local governments, and is neither effective nor a low cost method of ensuring anyone's right to vote.

Nothing in my legislation prevents a State, locality, political party, or individual from providing multilingual voting assistance. Localities will be free to adopt the approach that serves their constituencies best. Given that bilingual ballots have been both inaccurate and expensive, other approaches might be more helpful.

Multilingual Government services such as these are simply too costly in a nation in which more than 320 languages are spoken. It only makes sense to designate one common language for all official Government business. That is why I am introducing this important legislation.

It is time the Government came to the same conclusion as the rest of the American people: English should be our official language. English has enabled this Nation to be something unique in history, a true Nation of immigrants. English is the language of future opportunity for all our Nation's citizens. Official English is really just common sense.

NAZI SS MEMBERS IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring a very serious and troubling affair to the attention of my colleagues. Several news reports, over the last couple of days, have uncovered an incredible story: The German Government is giving pensions to over 3,000 former members of the Nazi Waffen SS Corps, living in the United States. Not extraordinary in and of itself, because these men receive their pensions as a result of their military service during World War II, yet the question that begs answering is: How many of these individuals might be war criminals? The outrage in this matter, is that the German Government may never have bothered to check.

At this same time, there are many Holocaust survivors—Catholics, Jews, and others living in the United States and elsewhere in the world—who have received very little in the way of compensation, and even scores of surviving victims who do not receive anything from the German Government. After the horrors and suffering they were forced to endure during the war, how can we allow this additional measure of indignation?

Apparently, many of these former SS members were able to enter the United States, and eventually gain citizenship, by falsifying their identities and lying about their wartime activities. Many of them, however, have been living in the United States for years now, some boldly with the same names, the same identities, the same blood on their hands.

Mr. Speaker, there is no excuse for that, and it is simply unacceptable. Yesterday, I

sent letters to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, President Clinton, and Attorney General Janet Reno, asking that they obtain the names of these Nazi pensioners, and release them to the proper American Government agencies, in order to fully investigate the possibility of war criminals in our midst. There must be a full accounting. Yes, many of them are old, frail men, who have lived peacefully in their respective neighborhoods for decades. Did they show the same respect for the millions in Europe who also were old, frail, and living their lives peacefully? I think we all know the answer to that question.

Thanks to the hard work of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, as well as some other prominent organizations, we are beginning to uncover a trail of Nazi war criminals among us. In fact, the OSI is finding and prosecuting Nazis at the rate of one per month. It is imperative therefore, that we have all the necessary information at our disposal, so that we can continue to bring these murderers to justice. They have eluded the authorities, and the moral outrage of their deeds, for over 50 years now, but we will no longer allow that to continue. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in this endeavor, so that we may finally honor the memories of the Nazis' victims. Everyday, more and more Holocaust survivors leave this Earth, while their former tormentors continue to live on, having never been held accountable for the horrible deeds of the past. It's simply time to act now. Therefore, I call on the Government of Germany to work with us in addressing and resolving this issue once and for all—for the survivors, for the victims, and for the future. They need to do the right thing.

CURTIS W. MEADOWS, JR., RECEIVES JONSSON ETHICS AWARD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the first recipient of the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award, Mr. Curtis W. Meadows, Jr.

On October 22, 1996, Southern Methodist University's Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility presented Mr. Meadows this award for his commitment to philanthropy and to serving the needs of the Dallas community. Mr. Meadows was president and director of Dallas' Meadows Foundation, one of the largest community foundations in the United States, for 18 years between 1978 and 1996. The Foundation, created by Mr. Meadows' uncle Algur H. Meadows nearly 50 years ago, has made over \$300 million in charitable contributions to benefit health, education, arts and culture, civic and public affairs, and human services programs throughout Texas.

Mr. Meadows has served on the boards of the National Council of Foundations, the Conference of Southwest Foundations, the Dallas Bar Foundations and on the advisory boards of more than 40 nonprofit organizations including the Dallas Citizens Council, Habitat for Humanity, and the Suicide and Crisis Center. He has served on the building committees for the Dallas Museum of Art and the Museum of African-American Life and Culture, and has par-

ticipated in the Mayors Task Force on Homelessness.

To be the first recipient of an award named for Mr. J. Erik Jonsson is a great honor indeed. Mr. Jonsson was a mayor of Dallas from 1964 to 1971, and under his leadership, a number of public buildings including the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, city hall, and the Dallas Public Library were constructed and improvements to the city's public schools were made. Both Mr. Jonsson and Mr. Meadows have demonstrated the public virtue that this Ethics Award represents. Congratulations, Mr. Meadows, and thank you for all that you have done for Texas.

HONORING SAM NUNN

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would designate the Atlanta Federal Center as the Sam Nunn Federal Center, in honor of the former Senator from Georgia.

I believe we all recognize the tremendous accomplishments of Sam Nunn during his service in the U.S. Senate. Senator Nunn is one of the true statesmen of that body and is a source of pride to Georgia. Since my election to Congress in 1986, I have had many opportunities to work with Senator Nunn on several issues and often benefited from his experience and support during the time that we served together.

Since his election to the Senate in 1972, Senator Nunn has served the State of Georgia with honor and dedication. Senator Nunn worked to become the Senate's foremost expert on national security and international affairs. Senator Nunn served 8 years as the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and retired as the ranking Democrat on both the Armed Service Committee and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

I have dedicated much time and effort in support of the Atlanta Federal Center. When Georgia Gov. Zell Miller approached me and asked my support for naming the Federal Center after Senator Nunn, I thought the dedication a fitting tribute to Senator Nunn. For these reasons, I will work to see that the Federal Center soon bears the name of our former Senator, Senator Sam Nunn.

GIVE FANS A CHANCE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

Mr. BLUMENAUER. On Sunday, January 26, the Packers won the Superbowl. When they returned home to Green Bay, their fans stood in freezing temperatures for hours to catch a glimpse of their heroes.

The Packers aren't an ordinary football team. Their fans aren't ordinary fans. And their community isn't an ordinary community—because 1,915 residents of Green Bay and other "Packer Backers" own their football team. The Packers are a vital part of the glue that holds the Green Bay community together.