

STATEMENT ON CRP FOR THE  
RECORD**HON. RICK HILL**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I'm increasingly concerned about the timing of USDA's sign-up putting cropland into the national Conservation Reserve Program. From the information I receive, Montana farmers and ranchers would like to postpone the CRP sign-up for 1 year.

Language in the farm bill directed USDA to issue CRP rules 3 months after enactment. The deadline was missed by several months and the lateness of the current sign-up has led to much uncertainty in Montana. Montana growers who want to bid land into CRP are told by USDA they will not know whether they're accepted until June or July.

Farmers need certainty. They need to know; should they prepare land for planting wheat or for establishing a cover suitable for long-term enrollment in the program. If they aren't CRP-accepted, they're caught between nature's seasons and USDA's process. We can't change nature, but we can change the rules to help not hinder our farm families.

My friends and neighbors are not the only ones confused about this delayed sign-up. I am informed that even local officials running the program are unclear about some of the new rules. None of this bodes well for farmers who need to make decisions about the future use of their land.

Worse still, under the new CRP rules some of the most environmentally sensitive land for CRP is likely to receive a bid so low that farmers may decide to put these lands into crops, turning the program and its purpose upside down.

Mr. Speaker, I support the CRP program and so do Montanans who currently have over 2.85 million acres in CRP. It's voluntary and incentive-based. It's a good program for keeping marginal crop land in grass to prevent soil erosion and provide wildlife habitat.

However, I do not want my farmers to agonize over doing the right thing. I applaud USDA for their hard work, but the framework for decision is too short and it occurs too late in the farm year. It is also not well understood and has led to much uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, I call on USDA to work with Congress. Take the time and energy required to look at this situation and do the right thing. Postpone the new CRP 1 year, so farmers can make plans for next spring. We can do better and we should.

DR. ERNEST S. GRIFFITH

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Dr. Ernest S. Griffith, who passed away at the age of 100 on January 17, 1997. Dr. Griffith served the Congress faithfully for 18 years as Director of the Legislative Reference Service, now the Congressional Research Service.

Considered by many to be the father of the Legislative Reference Service, Dr. Griffith

transformed a fledgling agency into a vital source of expert information and analysis for Members of Congress and their staffs. When he came to the LRS in 1940, Dr. Griffith had a staff of 40 to handle some 25,000 requests per year. Resources within the legislative branch were scarce, and the Congress depended largely on the executive branch and special interests for its information.

By the time Dr. Griffith left the LRS in 1958, his staff had grown to 200, and the number of congressional requests received per year had tripled. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 had expanded the LRS's mission and given it a permanent statutory basis for the first time in its history. Experts had been recruited from all manner of disciplines to provide the legislative branch with its own pool of knowledge and information. For the first time, the Congress had available to it a select group of experts who were both knowledgeable and nonpartisan, and who could be trusted and called on at any time for help. If ever a man left his mark, Ernest Griffith left his indelibly on the Legislative Reference Service.

Prior to 1940, Dr. Griffith's career was largely in university teaching and administration. After receiving his A.B. degree from Hamilton College, he was appointed a Rhodes scholar and received a Ph.D. from Oxford University. While at Oxford, he was the warden of Liverpool Settlement House. He taught economics at Princeton and government at Harvard, and was the undergraduate dean at Syracuse University before moving to Washington in 1935.

In 1935, Dr. Griffith served as dean of American University's graduate school, where he also taught political science. He returned to American University in 1958 as the founding dean of the School of International Service. Dr. Griffith was a Fulbright visiting professor at Oxford and a lecturer at New York, Birmingham, and Manchester Universities, Swarthmore College, the University of Oslo, and the University College of Swansea.

After retiring from American University in 1965, Dr. Griffith was visiting professor at the International Christian University and Rykko University in Japan, and lectured on American government in Turkey and Brazil. He was professor of American government at Alice Lloyd College in Kentucky in his middle eighties.

A prolific writer, Dr. Griffith authored numerous articles and books about the Congress, the Presidency, and the history of American city government. His book, "The American System of Government," was translated into more than 25 languages.

Between lectures and his duties as Director of the Legislative Reference Service, Dr. Griffith devoted himself to serving and improving the world around him. He founded the Pioneers, a forerunner of the Cub Scouts, chaired the policy board of an interuniversity training center for Peace Corps volunteers, and chaired the Council of Social Agencies, a predecessor of the United Way. He taught Sunday school, served as a delegate to the Third World Council of Churches, and was treasurer of the Wilderness Society. He was also vice president of the American Political Science Association and president of the National Academy of Economics and Political Science.

Mr. Speaker, Ernest Griffith was a man of intense passion and boundless energy, who dedicated his life to serving the public good. This is his legacy to us, and this is the legacy

we honor here today. To his children, Margo, Alison, Lawrence, and Stephen, his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, I extend our deepest sympathies.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. FRANCIS  
HOSPITAL**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the men and women of St. Francis Hospital, which this year proudly celebrates 40 years of dedicated service to the residents of Milwaukee's south side.

Nestled into a residential neighborhood, St. Francis Hospital for decades has realized that health care means more than the latest advances in medical technology. In fact, health care is about people, the people who come to the hospital for care and the professionals who provide it. Even during this day and age, a time of great change in health care, St. Francis Hospital remains committed to its founding vision: reaching out to care for those in need. And, the hospital remains true to the philosophy of their founding Felician Sisters, whose focus is a dedication to care and compassion for the whole person—body, mind, and spirit.

Residents of Milwaukee and the surrounding communities are truly fortunate that they can seek care and comfort at a leading institution such as St. Francis Hospital. Excellence shows through in the hospital's comprehensive specialty programs: orthopedics, advanced surgery, obstetrics, and cardiac care, to name a few. In addition, the Wisconsin Laser Center, the Center of Neurological Disorders and the Center for Children's Orthopedics, all located at St. Francis Hospital, are recognized as leaders in their fields, both in Wisconsin and the Midwest.

My colleagues certainly realize that fine facilities and modern equipment are essential in providing health care services today, but I truly believe it is the people of St. Francis Hospital, the Sisters, employees, medical staff, board of directors, volunteers, guild members, benefactors and friends, who have been the major force in continuing the hospital's fine tradition of Christian caring for the sick and injured over the last 40 years.

Congratulations, St. Francis Hospital on 40 outstanding years of care and compassion for Milwaukeeans, and best wishes for continuing success in the next 40 and well beyond.

KEEPING ALIVE THE HONOR OF  
MILITARY SERVICE: CONFED-  
ERATE AIR FORCE DESERT  
SQUADRON**HON. LARRY COMBEST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, in the history of this great Nation, when threatened by foreign powers, the people of the United States rally, we fight and we win. However, once we have secured the blessings of liberty—or

when they are secured for us by previous generations—we are in danger of forgetting to remain vigilant against those very threats to our liberty. Often, when blessed with peace, memories fade. Sometimes forgotten are those who sacrifice to fight against the tyranny of oppression.

In Odessa, TX, the Desert Squadron of the Confederate Air Force takes to the air in the surviving military aircraft that helped win the peace in World War II. They fly in honor of those who piloted those aircraft, and in honor of those who were supported by the mighty American air cover. The fact that these aging aircraft can fly at all is at the heart of the mission and the message of the Confederate Air Force Desert Squadron: preparedness and vigilance.

For our military veterans, our men and women in uniform today, and the generations who will be entrusted to keep our country strong, keeping these aircraft flying becomes a lesson in history and a means of teaching strength, preparedness, and vigilance in the name of liberty.

IN HONOR OF EL NUEVO HUDSON:  
CELEBRATING 2 YEARS OF  
SERVICE TO HUDSON COUNTY'S  
HISPANIC COMMUNITY

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the El Nuevo Hudson edition of the Jersey Journal, a local Spanish language publication in my district, on its second anniversary of outstanding service to Hudson County's Hispanic community. This newspaper and its distinguished publisher, Mr. Scott Ring, will be honored during a scholarship fund benefit dinner on March 26, 1997, at Jersey City State College in Jersey City, NJ.

In the early 1960's, large numbers of Hispanic immigrants began moving into the north Hudson area. Few sources of daily news were available in the native language of these new and valued members of the area. Today, Spanish news organizations, magazines, and publications such as El Nuevo Hudson have become the backbone of the Hispanic community, addressing important informational needs and concerns as well as deepening the understanding among Hispanic-Americans from various parts of the world.

In a relatively short time frame, El Nuevo Hudson has established itself as a social, cultural, and political watchdog for the growing Hispanic-American population in Hudson County. Ethnically focused newspapers such as El Nuevo Hudson have helped minority communities flourish in this Nation.

Since its launching, El Nuevo Hudson has proven to be a reliable and valuable medium to Hispanics throughout Hudson County. By keeping people in touch with news and services that affect them, it has contributed to the heightened awareness of the diverse Hispanic community. For this reason alone, I commend the publisher, editor-in-chief Armando Bermudez, and the talented and hard-working staff for providing a much needed service. I encourage them to maintain their exceptional work for many years to come.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the El Nuevo Hudson edition of the Jersey Journal, a publication that provides a new voice for the Hispanic community. Through the journalistic expertise of its publisher, Scott Ring, it has won acclaim throughout the news gathering sector of our area. I look forward to the continued participation of El Nuevo Hudson as New Jersey approaches a new century.

#### THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CENSUS ACCURACY ACT OF 1997

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 20, 1997*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Census Accuracy Act of 1997. The Census Accuracy Act requires that 3 years prior to the census, the Census Bureau must submit to Congress its plans for carrying out the census. It must report what methods will be used to take the census, including direct counting methods, sampling, statistical techniques, and any other methods to ensure that the census is as accurate as possible. The Census Accuracy Act also specifies that when Congress requires the allocation of funds based on population or housing characteristics, unless otherwise specified, that data should be collected on the census at the same time as the information for apportionment is collected.

Some critics of the Census Bureau's current plans for the 2000 census argue that title 13, U.F.C., prohibits the use of sampling to derive the population counts used for apportionment. In fact, the record is clear and overwhelming that just the opposite is true. The Department of Justice under Presidents Carter, Bush, and Clinton has concluded that the use of sampling is both legal and constitutional. Similarly, when asked to rule, the courts have consistently upheld the use of sampling. Nevertheless, some observers continue to question whether section 195 of title 13, U.F.C., permits the use of sampling to derive the population counts used for apportionment, even when read in conjunction with section 141 of the same title. Therefore, the purpose of this bill is to reaffirm the interpretation of the courts and the Justice Department that the use of sampling is both appropriate and desirable in order to make the census more accurate, and ensure that sections 195 and 141 of title 13, U.F.C., are in harmony as originally intended.

In just 3 years, the 2000 census will be under way. That census is important to this body because it will determine how the seats of this House are apportioned among the States. That census is important because over the decade it will be used to allocate hundreds of billions of dollars to State and local governments. It will be used to enforce the Voting Rights Act to assure equal representation. It will be used by businesses to locate manufacturing plants where there is an adequate work force, and to provide services that are valued by the communities of which they are a part. It will be used by State governments to plan highways, and by local governments to assure adequate sewer and water facilities. We cannot afford an inaccurate census. The bill I am introducing today will assure all of us that the

next census is as fair and accurate as possible.

Our understanding of the accuracy of the census increases each decade. Both Thomas Jefferson, the first census taker, and George Washington knew there were errors in the 1790 census. But it took until 1940 for census demographers to start measuring that error with sound scientific tools. Between 1940 and 1980 the net undercount decreased from 5.4 to 1.2 percent, but the differential undercount, the difference between black and nonblack undercount, went from 3.4 percent in 1940 to 4.3 percent in 1970 to 3.7 percent in 1980. In 1990, both the total net undercount and the differential went up. In fact, the differential of 4.4 percent between blacks and nonblacks in 1990 was the largest ever. In addition to increasing error in 1990, the cost per household, in constant dollars, went up. The 1990 cost was 25 percent higher than 1980 and 150 percent higher than 1970.

Because of the errors in the 1990 census, California was denied a congressional seat that was rightfully theirs. The 1990 census missed over 10 million Americans. Six million were counted more than once. It is not fair that those 10 million Americans were left out of the census, and it is not fair that those 6 million were counted twice. We would not stand for those kinds of errors in our election results, and we should not tolerate them in the census.

Is there anything that can be done about it? Absolutely. The Census Bureau has proposed a variety of changes in the 2000 census that will produce a more accurate census at a lower cost. The Census Bureau will make a greater effort to count everyone than ever before, and people will have more opportunities to respond than ever before.

Before the census form is mailed, everyone will receive a letter telling them that the census is coming. Then each household in the United States will receive a form. About a week later, they will receive a letter thanking them for returning the form, and reminding them to mail it if they have not. About a week after the reminder letter, the Census Bureau will send out a second form so that those who misplaced it will have a replacement.

In addition to the mail, the Census Bureau will use a variety of methods to make it easier for the public to be counted. Forms will be placed in super markets and community centers, post offices and government buildings, convenient stores and retail stores. Forms will be available in foreign languages, and there will be a toll-free number where people can call for help. There will also be a toll-free number where people can fill out their form over the phone. And, if privacy concerns can be addressed, it may be possible to return your form through the internet. There will be an advertising campaign to inform the public that the census is coming, and to explain why the Government is collecting this information. There will be programs for schools and civic organizations, as well as census employees whose job it is to work with community organizations to get out the count.

Even with all of these efforts we know that not everyone will send back their form. For every 1 percent of the population that does not mail in their form, or respond over the phone, it costs an additional \$25 million to count them. The best estimate of the experts is that even with all of these efforts, nearly 35