

immediate importance. With continued bipartisan cooperation, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee will be better able to affect a decrease in the backlog of pending cases. I pledge to continue working toward this end.

TRIBUTE TO BURT P. FLICKINGER, JR.

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mr. Burt P. Flickinger, Jr.

Throughout his life, Burt Flickinger tirelessly dedicated himself to the enhancement of our western New York community. A prominent Buffalo businessman who began in his family's business as a floor sweeper, Mr. Flickinger led his company to national prominence as a premiere food supplier and distributor. Insistent on earning his way to the helm of his family's company, Mr. Flickinger served as a division manager, secretary, senior vice president, and eventually president.

Burt Flickinger was No. 1 in his campus school class, attended the Nichols School and Philips Exeter Academy, and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University.

A true leader in recycling, Mr. Flickinger and his wife demonstrated a strong commitment to protecting our environment. To that end, Mr. Flickinger helped craft New York State's return-deposit recycling bill, created the Beverage Industry Collection and Sorting company [BICS] for food manufacturers and retailers, and initiated a recycling of plastics program for area supermarkets.

In 1988, Mr. Flickinger spearheaded the effort to bring the 1993 World University Games to Buffalo. By accomplishing this difficult task in his typical volunteer basis, Buffalo became the first American city to host this prestigious international event. Built for the games, Buffalo now boasts an impressive 18,000-seat football stadium at the University of Buffalo, a new aquatic center in the town of Tonawanda, and a world-class swimming pool and athletic complex at the Erie Community College City Campus, appropriately named the Burt Flickinger Athletic Center.

Mr. Flickinger also proved instrumental in the preservation and subsequent growth of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. Heading many major gifts campaigns and serving for several years as chairman of the finance and executive committees, Burt Flickinger almost single-handedly kept the orchestra from bankruptcy.

Another important project to Mr. Flickinger was the Roycroft Revitalization Corp. This nonprofit organization played a vital role in the restoration of one of western New York's most enduring landmarks, the historic Roycroft Inn.

In addition, Burt Flickinger was a four-time president of the Food Industry Council, a founding member of the Food Bank of Western New York, director, treasurer, and a founding member of the Erie Recycling Center, chairman of the New York State Food Merchants Association, and permanent chairman of the Boys Town of Italy of Western New York. In recognition of that extraordinary level of community service, Mr. Flickinger was recognized as the Buffalo News' Outstanding

Citizen in 1989, and the 1989 recipient of the University at Buffalo's Distinguished Citizen Award.

On April 21, 1997, the Buffalo community lost one of its greatest men. A man whose dedicated and charitable community service, hard work, commitment to Buffalo's development, personal strength, unparalleled integrity, and vibrant love of life serve as an inspiration to us all.

During a tribute in 1988, John Walsh III, CEO of Walsh Duffield Cos. put it best—"We see Mr. Flickinger as a humble, quiet, forceful, and thoroughly professional servant of his community, and we are educated by his kindness and compelling example of leadership."

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the city of Buffalo, and indeed, our entire western New York community, to honor Mr. Burt P. Flickinger, Jr., who is survived by his wife, Mary Ewing Ryan Flickinger; his brother, Peter; his children, Burt III, Molly Flickinger Ford, and Catherine "Bambi" Flickinger Schweitzer; his stepchildren, Peter Ryan, David Ryan, and Molly Ewert; and his seven grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren for his dedicated service to our western New York community. To that end, I would like to convey to the Flickinger family my deepest sympathies, and ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in a moment of silence.

We will all miss Mr. Flickinger very much.

HONORING PHIL NIEKRO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INDUCTION TO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen who was raised in Ohio's 18th District. The 14th winningest pitcher in the history of major-league baseball, Phil Niekro, has been voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame after a distinguished and celebrated career.

Phil Niekro has shown uncommon dedication and excellence in baseball. He learned the sport, and his famous knuckleball, from his father Phil, Sr., a sandlot player. Phil began his career in 1959 with the Milwaukee Braves' minor league team and moved to the majors full time in 1967.

Phil Niekro's career is one of achievement. On October 8, 1985, Niekro recorded his 300th victory by pitching an 8-0 four hitter for the New York Yankees against Toronto. At 46, he became the oldest major-league pitcher ever to hurl a shut-out. His accomplishments have been recognized through his selection to four All-Star teams during his tenure with the Atlanta Braves. For his fielding talents, Niekro has won five Golden Glove awards.

The Atlanta Braves Career Pitching Records is marked by Phil Niekro's accomplishments. He holds the record for most years at 20 years, most games and most games started at 740 games and 635 games respectively. He also has the most strikeouts of any other Atlanta Braves pitcher and the most wins of any right-handed pitcher.

I am honored to represent the birthplace and hometown of Phil Niekro. His consider-

able talent and stellar career are sources of pride for the residents of Ohio's 18th district. I share their pride, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Phil Niekro on his induction to the Baseball Hall of Fame and to wish him continued success.

ON THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MILDRED AND JOHN BURDA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the enduring commitment of two people to each other on the 50th wedding anniversary of Mildred and John Burda of Ohio.

Both Mildred and John are native Ohioans; Mildred hailed from Canton, and John from Cleveland. They married in 1947, raised a family, built careers and nurtured their love for each other in the Cleveland area. John studied nights and mornings to earn his associate's degree at John Carroll University and Mildred typed his papers. John worked his way up the ladder at Cleveland Electric Illuminating, starting as a lineman and rising to supervising foreman after 40 years. Mildred raised their four children. When the youngest graduated high school, Mildred went to work as a bookkeeper at the Church of the Sacred Heart, where she worked for 15 years.

As recalled by their children, Mildred and John were always supportive of and affectionate with each other. When their young friends would come over for Mildred's chop suey, they would be treated to Mildred and John, holding hands as if they had just returned from their first date.

In retirement, both are active. They are engaged with their community as members of their parish council. They travel widely visiting children around the country. They also cross-country ski in Cleveland's snowy winters, cycle and walk.

Their enduring love for each other is a gift to all who know them. After 50 years, both Mildred and John are sure that if they had their lives to do over again, they would spend them with each other.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 1997

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the millions of victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23.

Although to some it may seem a long time ago, those 8 years witnessed one of this century's darkest chapters. Before planning the final solution in Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler said, "who remembers the Armenians?" Today's remembrance is testimony to their bravery and our memories.

On April 24, 1915, Turkish officials rounded up and murdered over 200 Armenian intellectuals in Constantinople. During the following 8 years, Armenians living under Ottoman rule

suffered the losses of their homes, their property, and eventually, their lives.

By 1923, only one in three Armenians had survived the genocide; 1.5 million Armenians were killed and half a million were deported. But to this day, the Turkish Government denies the genocide took place on Turkish soil.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my name to the list of those who will not forget the genocide and will work to make sure that future generations remember as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# CONGRESS MUST DEBATE THE FED'S DECISION TO CUT BACK ON GROWTH

## HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 1997*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I believe Congress is delinquent in paying too little attention to the most significant set of public policy decisions now being made in this country: namely the decision by Chairman Alan Greenspan and the rest of the Federal Open Market Committee to increase interest rates because they believe that this country has been growing too fast economically, and that we must therefore cut back on growth and job creation so as to avoid any possible increase in inflation. I should note that they maintain this even though by their own admission there is no sign of inflation currently, and even though many of them, including Chairman Greenspan, have been unduly pessimistic in the past about the impact of reduced unemployment on inflation.

Twenty-five of the twenty-six Democratic and Independent members of the Banking Committee have urged the chairman of the committee to convene a full committee hearing on the important issues raised by the Fed's decision. He has declined. I have now turned to my Republican colleagues to ask them to join in this request for a hearing. Under committee rules, if 4 of the 30 Republicans were to join us, we would have the requisite number to require that a hearing be held.

It seems to many of us essential that we convene public hearings in the Congress in which Mr. Greenspan and his colleagues can defend their decision, and in which representatives of business, organized labor, citizens groups, and others can voice their agreement or disagreement. The scope of the issues involved here was recently made very clear in a cogent article Lester Thurow, former dean of the MIT Sloan School of Management, and currently a professor of economics at the school. Because this is the single most important set of decisions now being made about the American economy, and therefore about such related issues as how we can reduce the budget deficit to zero in a socially responsible way, how we can absorb hundreds of thousands of welfare recipients into the economy, and how we can accommodate growing internationalization of our economy without increased inequity. I am inserting Professor Thurow's article here:

Alan Greenspan's move to higher interest rates in March was in and of itself unimportant—after all what can a one-quarter of 1 percent increase in interest rates do to an

economy as big as that of the United States. The real issue isn't the increase but Greenspan's history. He believes in salami tactics. In 1994 and 1995 he raised interest rates 7 times in 12 months. Each increase was small, but in the end those 7 increases doubled interest rates.

Based upon his history, financial markets know Greenspan does not like big jumps in interest rates and a small rate increase is apt to signal that a sequence of small increases has begun and that in the end those small increases will end up being a big jump in rates. Given this belief, it is not surprising the stock market started to fall in the aftermath of Greenspan's announcement.

But the issues are far more important than the ups and downs of Wall Street. Greenspan has indirectly signaled he believes that the bottom two-thirds of the American work force should continue to get the small annual real wage reductions that they have gotten over the past quarter of a century—reductions that now amount to a 20 percent fall in real wages over the past 23 years. In the most recent year for which we have complete data, 1995, real wages once again fell for both fully employed male and female workers. Median family income rose slightly, but only because both men and women worked more hours per year.

In a market economy, wages rise for only one reason—demand has to be rising faster than supply. In the past 16 years, a 2.6 percent growth rate has led to falling wages. If the economy continues on that pace, no one should expect anything different to occur in the future. Nothing has happened to change demand; nothing has happened to change supply. Yet this is precisely what Greenspan is suggesting should happen with this recent hike in interest rates.

In his view the American economy must be limited to a 2 to 2½ percent rate of growth on the grounds that this is all the economy can achieve without rekindling inflation. In this environment, the pattern of falling wages for the bottom two thirds of the American work force has to continue. Americans cannot break out of this pattern without a different growth path.

The bottom part of the American work force also needs to be reskilled and re-educated, but these programs cannot work without faster growth. With today's growth rate, real wages are falling for males at all educational levels and for women at all educational levels except those with university degrees. With today's growth rates, there is no shortage of skilled workers. To increase the supply of skilled workers and do nothing about demand would simply reduce wages faster.

If inflation were visible, perhaps one could justify drafting the bottom two thirds of the American work force to be "Inflation fighters for the U.S. of A." It would not be fair (why should they suffer all of the costs of stopping inflation), but perhaps it might be necessary. But there is no sign of inflation in any of the indexes. Greenspan and the Fed can point to none—and they do not even try to do so. Greenspan has also testified to Congress that he believes the Boskin Commission is right and that today's price indexes include at least 1.1 percentage points of exaggeration. With this correction, the lack of inflation becomes even stronger.

Nor is there any data showing that higher wages are about to lead to higher prices. The preliminary data for 1996 show a small gain in average real wages—0.2 percent—but 1996's productivity gain was five times as big. There is no economic theory under which such small wage gains far below the rate of growth of productivity can be labeled inflationary. Yet Greenspan is saying with his interest rate hike that those 1996 wage increases are too large.

Only the modern Delphic Oracle, Greenspan and the Federal Reserve Board Open Market Committee, can see the inflation in our future. Only they can see why most Americans must prepare for a future of falling wages and diminishing expectations. Ordinary mortals who must rely on real world data cannot see what they see, but then we are only mortals—not gods.

To put it bluntly and simply, such decisions ought to be unacceptable in a democracy. Decisions to lower the real wages for a majority of American voters must be decided in a democratic context. It is popular to talk about maintaining the independence of central bankers from the influence of politics, but that only makes sense if the central bankers are making sensible decisions that can be supported with hard real world data. When they ask us to believe them simply because they are wiser than we are and can see things that we cannot see, they are going beyond the appropriate bounds of any government agency in a democracy.

# HONORING 100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE—JOHNSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, ST. PAUL, MN

## HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 1997*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of my alma mater, Johnson Senior High School in St. Paul, MN along with the graduating class of 1997. I am proud to be an alumnus of Johnson High School, the "spirit of the East Side," as it's referred to in St. Paul. Johnson High School has been a respected institution of learning in St. Paul for the past century.

Over the years, the staff and teachers of Johnson High School have shared the gift of learning with countless thousands of students, hundreds of whom are immigrants and new Americans. Johnson High School has continued to generate pride and a sense of belonging in each new generation. The mission of Johnson High School is to be relentless in promoting education for the common good. Certainly, my interest in public service was encouraged and guided by the educators at Johnson High as well as the St. Paul community.

Johnson High School has had a close association with the community and maintains a thriving identity throughout the neighborhoods of St. Paul's East Side where many of Johnson's sons and daughters still reside, work, and participate. The success of current students at Johnson in both scholastic and athletic achievements continues to reflect a positive learning experience. This year's wrestling team was a runner-up in State competition and the Johnson team was the top academically of all State wrestling teams.

Johnson High School has had many distinguished graduates throughout the Nation and the world. Warren E. Burger, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and Wendell Anderson, former U.S. Senator and former Governor of the State of Minnesota are both Johnson alumni. Countless other graduates have made unique contributions to the city of St. Paul, the State of Minnesota, and to the Nation as a whole.

Johnson High School has earned the right to be recognized for the contribution it has