

will no longer be eligible for welfare benefits, there is none more suitable to lead this agency.

Ms. Herman's background in job training and placement and her pioneering efforts to bring women and minorities into the workplace coupled with her sensitivity, her competence, and her private sector and White House experience makes her eminently qualified.

I have had the pleasure and good fortune to work with Alexis Herman at the Democratic National Committee, the New York convention, and in her position as public liaison at the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to speak in support of this outstanding individual, who in the President's own words, were his "eyes and ears working to connect the American people."

I urge the Senate to move expeditiously and confirm Alexis Herman as Secretary of Labor.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair wishes to inform Members that they should not urge action by the Senate in the confirmation process during debate.

THOUGHTS ON CONGRESSIONAL RETREAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. COMBEST] is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, there will be several facilitators from the bipartisan Hershey retreat who will be taking the floor today to talk about the positive things that happened from that meeting.

Rather than me telling Members what I thought about it, I thought I would read to them some very quick quotes from Members who were there:

"Pleasantly surprised";

"Substantive";

"Very diverse group";

"Heard things we didn't think we would hear, in a positive sense";

"People were eager to get into it";

"Some people began hesitant but were comfortable once we got started";

"People wanted to come up with ideas that were realistic, that we could accomplish";

"Very good responses from spouses as well as Members";

"Ought to continue the bipartisan caucuses";

"Some of the greatest responses were from some who were the most skeptical";

"Spouses had great things to say";

"Good to have practical ideas, not so lofty as changing the spin of the earth".

Mr. Speaker, one of the quotes that I think meant the most to me was among these, "It almost leads you to believe we could change the House if we put our minds to it."

Mr. Speaker, it almost does lead you to believe that we could change the House if we put our minds to it.

SUPPORT FOR APPOINTMENT OF ALEXIS HERMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WATERS] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment first to join with my colleagues in a word of praise for Alexis Herman. As an African American woman, I am so very proud that she has been nominated.

Despite the growth that we have had in this country of tolerance and the work that has been done to get rid of racism and discrimination and to try and open up opportunities for all, it still has been rather slow in coming. And it is not often, as a matter of fact, it is extremely rare, that an African-American woman would have the opportunity to serve as secretary of an administration. Alexis Herman has done everything that your parents, your community would have you do to get recognized as a person who is capable and competent so the President has nominated her.

This woman served at the Department of Labor, where she headed the Women's Bureau. That is when I first met her. That was a number of years ago. And not only have I been impressed with her competence and her ability, she has been of assistance to so many people, to so many women. And of course her time and her service in the White House itself has exemplary.

So I am hopeful that everything will go well. I am extremely proud and I am hopeful that within a short period of time, we will be able to say Madam Secretary, Alexis Herman.

ON THE CIA

For the rest of my time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue because I have a statement that I would like to make about a very important matter.

I think this week we have the Members of our Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence here in the House examining the CIA. They are probably taking a look at a number of the activities of the CIA and starting to talk about its budget. We have been hearing a lot about the CIA, certainly about cases where our own employees in the CIA decided to become spies for other nations.

But beyond that, we have learned a lot about who the CIA deals with, and there are many people who will excuse who they deal with because they will tell you because of their covert operations they have to deal with the worst of them.

We have seen some efforts in recent days to do some scrubbing in the CIA. That simply means that they are going to try and disassociate with some of the terrorists, the drug traffickers, and

the murderers that they have been working with for a number of years. They say that they are going to get rid of their relationships with them, and that is called scrubbing.

But I am very concerned about the CIA. It is a \$30 billion budget. That is a lot of money when you are talking about balancing the budget. It is a \$30 billion budget. And none of us knows what it is spent for. We just kind of give it over to the CIA. Then all these stories start to float back.

I have been involved for over 6 months now as a result of the revelations of the San Jose Mercury News about the CIA's involvement in drug trafficking in south central Los Angeles in the 1980's.

We identified Mr. Danilo Blandon and Mr. Norwin Meneses, two of the principals in the drug trafficking, one of whom, Danilo Blandon, has testified under oath that he was an operative for the CIA. You know this story. They sold drugs; they fueled the explosion of crack cocaine.

It spread out across the United States, and part of those proceeds were used to fund the Contras, because they were the supporters of Somoza down in Nicaragua when the Contras were fighting against the Sandinistas under the so-called banner of the freedom fighters. They were looking for money all over the world. And the CIA had created the Contras, the so-called resistance movement, and they had to fund the army of the Contras known as the FDN. So in looking for this money, it certainly appears that they turned their backs and they allowed the selling of cocaine in huge amounts that got cooked into crack cocaine that exploded in this Nation.

We have the investigations going on now. The inspector general of the CIA, the inspector general of the Justice Department, intelligence committees of both Houses, all are supposedly involved in these operations looking at them and investigating.

But beyond that, we find other information about the CIA in Venezuela.

MATTERS INVOLVING THE NBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. COBLE] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, some weeks ago, after a Chicago Bulls star Dennis Rodman inexcusably kicked a cameraman during a National Basketball Association game, one of my constituents asked me if there was anything we in the Congress could do in response to Rodman's behavior.

The NBA will ignore the incident and it will be business as usual, my constituents declared. You in the Congress address the matter, he continued.

It is difficult to legislate character, I told him.

His words regarding the NBA's response were prophetic. The incident

was resolved very casually indeed. Many believe Rodman should have been suspended for the entire season. That would have been an appropriate conclusion.

Rodman was seen laughing about the incident and one of his teammates complained that the cameraman should have more promptly removed himself from the arena floor.

One is a victim of a senseless assault and battery and the victim should jump to his feet and promptly apologize to his attacker? Hardly.

The attitude of many of these NBA stars is reprehensible, Mr. Speaker. Some recent years ago an NBA star was accused of improper involvement with gambling interests and possible involvement with organized crime. His response was that most people did not appreciate the pressure that surrounded his life.

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I have news for this self-appointed celebrity. He does not know the meaning of pressure. The guy under pressure is working for \$9 an hour, who wants to purchase his son a ticket so he can watch these millionaire athletes display their wares on the hardwood. I am told that fewer fans, Mr. Speaker, are viewing televised NBA games. This may not be supported by polling data, but common sense tells me that many Americans are fed up with the condescending attitude expressed by these overnight millionaires.

Perhaps they should have to try their luck at \$9-an-hour jobs. Then maybe they would appreciate the fact that fans who pay their hard-earned money deserve more respect. They might then appreciate the fact that millionaire athletes, or celebrities, are indeed role models. They are not required to be good role models, but they cannot on the one hand warmly embrace their money, fame, and celebrity status, and then on the other hand reject their casting as role models. It does not work that way, fellas, and this is the climate which the NBA is now extending to high school graduates.

I was recently asked, Mr. Speaker, if I would pay to attend an NBA game. One team has regional exposure to my congressional district; another team is coached by a good friend of mine. Aside from these two teams, I would pay to watch only one team in the NBA. That team has never won an NBA title, although they annually advance well into the playoff season, but no cigar is awarded. But this team is a class organization and if more NBA teams would emulate them, there would likely be an increase in spectator interest.

If these self-serving overpaid athletes do not get their acts together, spectator interest will continue to wane and perhaps they will have the chance at one of those \$9-an-hour jobs, and then, Mr. Speaker, they will really know what pressure is.

SUPPORT FOR A BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I will not take the full 5 minutes, although I will yield to a colleague after I say a few words about the bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act.

This is an issue that has been with us since the founding of our democracy. I happen to represent northern Virginia, the home of George Washington at Mount Vernon. Some of my colleagues may not be aware that the first time that George Washington ran for office he was defeated. He ran for the House of Delegates for Virginia and he lost. His advisers came to him after he lost and said, "General Washington, the problem is that you did not treat." They explained that the custom is to distribute whiskey to the landowners on election day. Sure enough, next election, he treated and he won overwhelmingly.

James Madison had the same problem. He did not learn from George Washington's experience and he lost, and then he went back to treating. Treating led to what they called macing, where essentially a candidate would dun the members of his political party for contributions. Well, one thing led to another, and now we have a system that is in desperate need of another major reform.

We have had many reforms. The 1974 reform was one such major reform. In fact, let me quote from Lyndon Johnson in 1967. In a special address to this Congress, he said, "Our current campaign finance laws are inadequate in scope and now obsolete. More loophole than law, they invite evasion and circumvention."

It took 7 years and the Watergate break-ins before Congress passed real reform. Those words, though, are equally true today. We have got to reform campaign finance law. It is corrupting the political process as well as the legislative process.

We have a bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, terrific people on both sides of the aisle are cosponsoring it. We have the gentlewoman from New Jersey [Mrs. ROUKEMA], the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN], the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL], the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA], the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH], and the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE]. I can go on and on. And these Republican Members are in addition to a long list of Democratic cosponsors.

One of those folks, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. WAMP], is one of the Republican sponsors. Mr. Speaker, I will yield to Mr. WAMP now to conclude my 5 minutes.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I have to say in opening I am from Chattanooga, TN, home of the Cin-

derella team this year in the Sweet 16, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the Moccasins; the Mockingbirds, excuse me. We have changed our name.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, the businessman from Texas, Mr. Ross Perot, who sometimes I agree with, sometimes I may not, but he said that we have good people in Washington trapped in a bad system. I certainly believe that there are good people serving in the U.S. Congress but the system of campaign reform, which has not changed since 1974, needs to be changed.

There is no perfect bill, there is no silver bullet, there is no magic solution. It is very complex, but it is a bipartisan problem. This week the Democrats may be in more trouble on this issue than the Republicans, but who is to say that the system may not swing the other way. I really believe neither party has an exclusive on integrity or an exclusive on ideas. This is a problem that both parties share.

Some basic principles we should agree on and change is that a majority of our money in campaigns should come from our home States; that the influence of special interest political action committees should be reduced; that we should ban soft money, corporate contributions to the political parties that are funneled back into media advertising should be eliminated; and that we should somehow work to reduce the overall money spent on political campaigns in America.

I think we can agree on those basic principles. Conflict, Mr. Speaker, brings about resolution, and we have a conflict in this country. Yes, every day there is new revelations, but it is time to use these conflicts to bring about change. There is no perfect solution, but we must agree on some basic principles, come together in a bipartisan way.

I do not agree with everything in the bipartisan campaign bill but I believe we can change it and improve it as we go. The issue is, will we defend the status quo again this year in this body, or will we come together and change this system for the first time in 23 years? The status quo obviously is not serving us well in campaign laws. Reform is in order.

If Members have ideas, if they have disagreements, come to the reform movement. Do not fight it or look the other way or make excuses to get by any longer.

ENDING FEDERAL RACE AND GENDER PREFERENCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. CANADY] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I rise to address legislation I will soon introduce to end