

makes sure that we do not go backward, but we go forward; that we enable, if you will, the individuals who need public housing to have good, clean public housing.

I would like to yield to the gentleman, because I am offering to withdraw this particular amendment, even as it has been softened, to be able to work further on the generic problem, and the generic problem is trying to get housing in communities that do not have 50,000 units, 25,000 units, 10,000 units or 5,000 units, but have under that, and through demolishing have lost the ability to serve those communities and individuals in those communities.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas. I appreciate the spirit with which we have been entering into discussions on the part of the gentlewoman. She has offered, and I appreciate that, to continue speaking with me and with members of my staff, the committee staff, rather, to ensure that we try and meet the needs of low-income people in terms of housing in rural areas. I understand that there is an equal need for housing in rural areas, and that we need to look to new tools to try and enhance what we have right now.

With respect to the gentlewoman's particular amendment, we are going to take a look at it, because we have no hearing record. I want to make sure that I understand the implications and consequences of the amendment, and then I hope we will have several different discussions about this, to see if we can explore some ways of trying to meet on mutual concerns to try and deliver more and better housing for low-income people in rural areas.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas was allowed to proceed for 30 additional seconds.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman. I was hoping we could work in tandem and look at this issue so it could be represented in conference that there is a problem, not only with rural areas, I mentioned that, but cities that are not cities that have larger than 5,000 units.

In my instance, Houston is probably representative of some other cities that have less than that, or 2,500 units, who may have some problems on the replacement, and need to have that incentive to do so for those individuals.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the

following Members be permitted to offer their amendments to title II, even after the reading has progressed beyond that title. That would be Mr. MORAN, printed amendment No. 51; the gentlewoman from New York, [Ms. VELAZQUEZ], printed amendment No. 43. That would preserve their rights to offer their amendments tomorrow.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment of the gentleman from Texas, [Mr. DELAY], also be protected, which is a correlary or related to the amendment of Mr. MORAN, and that he be permitted to offer his amendment to title II even after the reading has progressed beyond that title.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Chairman, the Klink-Doyle amendment will provide the general public with a simple practical protection from overzealous bureaucratic decisionmaking. It amends the local cooperation provision of section 202 of the bill to ensure that public housing authorities notify and consult with potentially impacted local governments when initiating new public housing programs, including those which stem from an order, judgment, or decree of any court.

Current law does contain limited notification requirements, and H.R. 2 improves on these stipulations. Some might assume that such provisions are adequate to guarantee that communities receive expedient notification and consultation. However, based on experiences in Allegheny County, PA and in cities across the country, we feel that the clarification provided by this amendment is essential.

For 2 years now, the citizens of Allegheny County have been working to comply with the provisions of a consent decree designed to redistribute public housing throughout the county. As HUD and the housing authority began to implement the decree, towns and boroughs were often treated as if their interests and input were unnecessary and unwanted. Thousands of citizens and numerous councils of government were outraged by their nearly total exclusion from any part of the decisionmaking process.

To address this situation, I brought local officials in Allegheny County together into an intermunicipal working group. This group has come to stand together and demand the notification that the people deserve. Many citizens and elected officials in this group have worked tirelessly and have had some success in bringing more openness to the implementation process. Unfortunately, our extraordinary efforts have not been enough. The people need the force of law to guarantee that, at a bare minimum, public housing authorities will keep them apprised of their activities.

Usually, when a housing authority seeks funding from HUD for a new public housing initiative, they must gain some degree of local approval. However, because funding for compliance with a consent decree does not come through normal HUD channels, notification requirements do not have to be adhered to. In

other words, housing authorities can and do legally turn a blind eye to local interests. Mr. Chairman, I believe that this is clearly a loophole which needs to be closed.

Regardless if a public housing initiative is the result of a bureaucratic decision or a judicial decree, the public should have the right to review proposals which will affect their communities. A judicial mandate should not provide a license to ignore the rights of citizens, or be used as a justification to avoid public scrutiny. We must insist these decisions and debates are taking place in the light of day, not behind closed doors, and this amendment does simply that. It guarantees the public's right to know. I thank the Committee for agreeing to include Amendment No. 47 in the en bloc amendment which was earlier today approved by voice vote.

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS) having assumed the chair, Mr. GOODLATTE, chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill, H.R. 2, to repeal the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, deregulate the public housing program and the program for rental housing assistance for low-income families, and increase community control over such programs, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 478, FLOOD PREVENTION AND FAMILY PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-88) on the resolution (H. Res. 142) providing for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 478 to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to improve the ability of individuals and local, State, and Federal agencies to comply with that Act in building, operating, maintaining, or repairing flood control projects, facilities, or structures, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3, JUVENILE CRIME CONTROL ACT OF 1997

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-89) on the resolution (H. Res. 143) providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 3 to combat violent youth crime and increase accountability for juvenile criminal offenses, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order

of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. COLLINS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

AMERICA'S 39TH POET LAUREATE, ROBERT PINSKY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this fall, the acclaimed poet Robert Pinsky will take his place as America's 39th poet laureate.

I am very proud to point out to my colleagues that Mr. Pinsky was born and raised and graduated from the public high school in my hometown of Long Branch, NJ, a historic seashore community that was the inspiration for many of his poems.

Mr. Pinsky is truly the right poet laureate for our time in history. In announcing his appointment, the Librarian of Congress, James H. Billingham, noted that his accomplishments in translation, his interest in making poetry accessible through digital technology on the Internet, and his own probing poetry promise an exciting year for us in Washington.

He follows in the footsteps of many great poet laureates, including Robert Frost, Gwendolyn Brooks, Robert Penn Warren, and Conrad Aiken.

The duties of the poet laureate have traditionally included promoting poetry in this country through seminars, workshops, and speaking engagements. Judging from Mr. Pinsky's rich imagination and creative use of language in the computer, I am sure we can count on him to make his mark on the poet laureates' role in a significant and lasting way.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pinsky is the author of five collections of poetry, including his most recent publication, "The Figured Wheel: New and Collected Poems 1965 to 1995."

□ 2130

He is the poetry editor of the weekly Internet magazine called Slate. In 1994, Mr. Pinsky translated Dante's "Inferno" from the Italian and won great national acclaim for the deep poetic talent displayed in this formidable task. The students at Boston University where he is a professor are certainly fortunate to have him teaching in their creative writing program.

I know that I reflect the views of my constituents when I express how proud I am that a native son of the Sixth Congressional District of New Jersey will hold the esteemed and historic title of Poet Laureate.

So at this time I would like to share with my colleagues a few of Mr.

Pinsky's poems so that we might welcome him to Washington with a deeper appreciation of his outstanding poetry.

First of all, these are from the Figured Wheel which I mentioned. The first one, if I could read it briefly, Mr. Speaker, is about my home town of Long Branch, which is also Mr. Pinsky's home town, and he talks about the ocean, which we are all so very fond of since Long Branch is along the shore. It is called "A Long Branch Song."

Some days in May, little stars.
Winked all over the ocean. The blue
Barely changed all morning and afternoon.
The chimes of the bank's bronze clock;
The hoarse voice of Cookie, hawking
The Daily Record for 35 years.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that brings home to me because I remember Cookie who was hawking the Daily Record, our local newspaper, for a long time when I was growing up.

The next poem is also about Long Branch. It is a little longer but not much. I would like to read it, if I could, to my colleagues, Mr. Speaker. It is called "Long Branch, New Jersey."

Everything is regional,
And this is where I was born, dear,
And conceived,
And first moved to tears,
And last irritated to the same point.
It is bounded on three sides by similar places
And on one side by vast, uncouth houses.
A glum boardwalk and,
As we say, The Beach.
I stand here now
At the corner of Third Avenue and Broad-
way.

Waiting for you to come by in a car,
And count the red carlights
That rush through a fine rain
To where Broadway's two branches—North
Broadway and South Broadway—both reach
To the trite, salt, welcoming ocean.

I like to read that one, Mr. Speaker, because not only is Broadway near where I was born and grew up but it is also where my congressional office is, on Broadway.

The last one I would like to read, I hope there is time in the time I have allotted, is called "To My Father, for Milford S. Pinsky," who I remember was Robert Pinsky's father, a local obstetrician in Long Branch.

The glazed surface of the world, dusk.
And three mallard that land
In the dim lake, each
Scudding in a bright oval . . .
What chance, man, for the thin
Halting qualities of the soul?
Call this, prologue to an explanation,
Something like the way Uncle Joe Winograd
With a carpenter's flat silence
Might act on some given stretch
Of Uncle Italo Tarantola's lifelong
Lawyerly expanding monologue.
What I wanted, was to dwell
Here in the brain as though
At my bench, as though in a place
Like the live ongoing shop—
Between kitchen and factory—
Of a worker in wood or in leather.
Implements ranged in sizes and shapes,
The stuff itself stacked up
In the localized purposeful clutter
Of work, the place itself smelling
Of the hide, sawdust or whatever.
I wanted the exact words;

I wanted the way to pronounce
Evenly the judgment which a man
Who was quiet holds back as distinct
But not final in the presence
Of a good talker. I a good talker
Ask you a quiet man to recall the inside
Of a shop, glassdust and lenses
Everywhere, broken eyeglasses, forms
And odd pieces of paper, voices
Like phones ringing, tools
Broken and whole everywhere, mail
Unread, the sign—"Milford S." or
"Robert"—hanging like a straight face . . .
Surface, tyranny of the world visible,
Images that spread outward
From the brain like lines crazing—
Or like brief silvery ovals
That glide over the dark,
Ethereal, yet each wingbeat
Firm in time, of more
Substance than this, this mothlike
Stirring of words, work or affection.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN STRAUER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. HULSHOF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, as you know, this is National Teacher Appreciation Week and today is National Teacher Day. I want to take time out to recognize the hundreds of men and women back home in Missouri's Ninth District whose dedication to educating our youth takes precedence over long hours and meager compensation. There are many who demonstrate such excellence within the classroom.

One shining example is Martin Strauser. For the last 30 years Mr. Strauser has taught at St. Clair High School. Just this past March Mr. Strauser was the proud recipient of the 1996 Educator of the Year Award. He was honored for his years of service, his contributions to the school system, and for helping thousands of young people throughout his lifetime.

According to his nomination letter, Mr. Strauser, quote, "has served as a fine example for high school students throughout his career." Many former students have given testimonials about his positive leadership.

Mr. Strauser, an industrial arts teacher, insists that one of his goals is to teach students not only occupational skills which will help them find future employment, but also to provide opportunities to teach students lessons in life to be successful.

Martin Strauser is known for his honesty, dependability and dedication to his profession and his students.

Mr. Speaker, Martin Strauser not only helps his students build shop projects, but helps young adults build their lives. Congratulations are in order for teachers like Martin Strauser, a lifelong educator and mentor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. VISCLOSKEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.