

Life After Congress seminar, which is a wonderful thing. This is the second time we have done it for people who are retiring. It sort of walks them through what they have and the problems and, frankly, discusses what they are facing when you get out, going from where everybody listens to you and calls to when all of a sudden the phone stops ringing and how do you handle that. The auxiliary is to be really congratulated.

Linda Reed, our executive director, wears many, many hats and does an incredible job. We are lucky to have her and really just so proud of the job you do, Linda.

Walt Raymond, who came on board with us to work part time and now works full time back there and who is really responsible for the tremendous growth of our overseas programs.

Now it is my sad duty to inform the House of those persons who served in the Congress who have passed away since our report last year. The deceased Members of Congress are as follows:

James F. Battin (Montana); Ray Blanton (Tennessee); Paul W. Cronin (Massachusetts); Hamilton Fish (New York); Edward J. Gurney (Florida); Seymour Halpern (New York); Oren Harris (Arkansas); Charles Hayes (Illinois); Chet E. Holifield (California); Harold E. Hughes (Iowa); Leo Isacson (New York); Harry Jeffrey (Ohio); Edward H. Jenison (Illinois); Coya Knutson (Minnesota); Paul J. Krebs (New Jersey); Robert M. Love (Ohio); Hugh Buenton Mitchell (Washington); William L. Scott (Virginia); Jessie Sumner (Illinois); and Paul Tsongas (Massachusetts).

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask all of you to rise for a moment of silence in their memory. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Mrs. BOGGS. It is so ordered.

Mr. FREY. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Thank you.

Madam Speaker, I would like obviously to offer on behalf of myself and everybody here, our congratulations. They just don't do it better, and we are obviously not only proud of the job you have done in Congress but for us, and now a new responsibility, and we are really lucky.

Mrs. BOGGS. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. FREY. Madam Speaker, this concludes our 27th annual report to the Congress by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress.

I think I said earlier, and I truly believe it, that being a Member of this body was a privilege. It was the best thing that ever happened to me. There were times that I would look out the window and say, you know, am I really here? I never lost awe of this institution. I never lost feeling that being here was just an incredible opportunity and a privilege, and think to the same extent I feel that being a former Member is also a privilege, because we have got a chance to help the people in this

country understand what we have been given, the incredible job that the people who wrote this Constitution did. A little over 7,000 words, and it still works somehow today.

It is so easy to kick things around and be cynical; it is so easy to knock; but this body is what keeps it together. This is the keel on the sailboat that keeps us from tilting too far to the right or too far to the left, and we usually float back and forth through the center. There really is no other group in this country that has the ability to speak, that has the credibility to speak, and that are united, not with a "D" or "R" after our names or whatever, that is really insignificant, but are united for our love for this institution. We are part of and have been part of the greatest legislative body in the history of the world. I say that without any false sense of pride, but I say it because I think this institution has earned the respect of those people in this country and those people around the world, and it is going to keep the respect. I look forward to working with each and every one of you for those things that we believe in.

Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

Mrs. BOGGS. The Chair again wishes to thank the following Members of Congress for your presence here today and to announce that those of you who may have come in after the roll was called, that you may come and make your presence known to the Clerk here at the Speaker's desk.

I would be very happy to have all of you registered and to thank all of you for your participation, not only in this session, but for your participation day after day, year after year, in carrying forward, as our President has just said, this great and wonderful Government under the enduring Constitution of the United States.

I wish to thank all of you for coming, and I now declare that the session is over and that the House will reconvene at 10:30 this morning.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House continued in recess.

□ 1032

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. COBLE] at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 49. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill and concurrent resolutions of the following titles,

in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 342. An act to extend certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices.

S. Con. Res. 6. Concurrent resolution expressing concern for the continued deterioration of human rights in Afghanistan and emphasizing the need for a peaceful political settlement in that country.

S. Con. Res. 21. Concurrent resolution congratulating the residents of Jerusalem and the people of Israel on the thirtieth anniversary of the reunification of that historic city, and for other purposes.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize 15 1-minutes on each side.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today. We had a reception this morning for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, where we honored many of the police heroes that have helped bring back home some of our children that have been lost throughout our Nation.

It is sad enough to read the headlines. There was the slaying of Michelle Montoya, 18, a popular Rio Linda High School student whose body was found in the school wood shop on Friday, and a high school janitor accused in the death of the student had a history of violence, but school officials waited until after he was on the job before seeking background information from the State.

A child's life has been lost because we failed to do our job, and we find out had they done it properly, that this person who was accused of the crime had a violent past, had been in jail for 12 years for manslaughter. How many more children have to die before we do what is appropriate in protecting our defenseless children?

I want to commend the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for all they have done to help reunite children with their families. But we have to do more. Our most precious resource in this country is our children.

They are vulnerable, they need our assistance, they need the help of Government.

ACTION NEEDED ON PENSION PROTECTION

(Mr. GEJDENSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, soon we will be taking up H.R. 1377, the Savings are Vital to Everyone's Retirement Act of 1997, the Savers Act. It is very nice. It says the President should have a study. But we know what we need to do on retirement protection. There is legislation that I have authored, and others.

Fifty-one million Americans do not have pensions today. Women, one-third of them are covered by pensions at age 55, and that is wrong. Women retirees are in systems that provide lower benefits. Women are less than half as likely as men to work in jobs that are covered by pensions. Twelve million women work for small firms who simply do not have pensions at all.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans when they were in the minority used to attack us for having studies. That is what they have turned out to do now. We are going to study pensions, when we know what we need to do. We need to make sure that unscrupulous companies do not rip off people's pensions, so people can invest in a modern society where they move from job to job, that they can keep those benefits, that it is easier for private companies to set up pensions, and that women are treated equally to men. Studies are fine. Let us get some action on the floor.

COMMENDING THE BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, here in America we are taxed on the very first cup of coffee we drink in the morning. We are taxed on every gallon of fuel we expend just to get to work. We are taxed when we make a phone call. We are taxed when we buy something on the way home. When we get to our home, we pay property taxes on the house we live in. Then, God forbid, if we should die, we are paying taxes once again. We pay in life and we pay in death.

Early this morning we did something about that by passing the balanced budget agreement. For the first time in 16 years we have hope of a little Federal tax relief for families that work. For the first time in nearly 30 years we will get to a balanced budget by the year 2000. Sweet dreams, America. Hope is alive.

STOP PLAYING POLITICS WITH DISASTER RELIEF AND WIC FUNDS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it has now been 60 days since the President sent disaster relief legislation to the Congress. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would rather play politics with the bill than move to provide needed relief for flood victims. Republicans have added a poison pill to the legislation, which in fact would ultimately reduce the levels of funding for education, for the women, infants, and children program, and for other programs that directly benefit working middle class families today. This could undermine the entire bipartisan budget agreement that we did work into the wee hours of the morning to pass.

Meanwhile, the flood victims continue to wait for their disaster relief money. In addition, 360,000 women, infants, and children who receive nutrition assistance from the WIC program are at risk for losing milk, formula, and cereal. I urge my Republican colleagues, stop playing politics with the bill. Let us pass the legislation. Let the President sign it, and move quickly to get these funds to the folks who so desperately need them.

WITH A WINNING BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT, THE ONLY LOSERS ARE BIG GOVERNMENT AND THE STATUS QUO

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, America awoke this morning to the first balanced budget agreement in nearly two generations. Today I rise to commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, both Democrats and Republicans, for the passage of the balanced budget agreement.

This budget truly is good news for the American people. This bipartisan approach demonstrates to the American people that we in Congress are willing to put aside petty partisan politics to pass this historic balanced budget.

Although this agreement may not be perfect, passage of this budget will mean smaller government, lower spending, lower taxes, a solvent Medicare system, and a balanced budget, all in one plan. The people in my district in Nevada will be able to keep more of their hard-earned money to save, invest, and send their kids to college, or spend any way they see fit. Seniors, families, and future generations will all benefit from this budget agreement. The only loser is big Government and the status quo.

COURT MARTIAL FOR LT. KELLY FLYNN

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Pentagon said Lt. Kelly Flynn, the first woman to fly a B-52, committed adultery and lied. Lt. Kelly Flynn admits she made a mistake. For this, the Pentagon has chosen to court-martial Lieutenant Flynn.

What a country, Congress. Jimmy Swigert can return to prime time, but Kelly Flynn gets hard time. Unbelievable. For years G.I. Joe was given a condom and a slap on the wrist, but now G.I. Jane gets a court-martial, a slap in the face, and to boot, labeled as Jezebel for life. I ask, if this was Lt. Erol Flynn instead of Lt. Kelly Flynn, would there be a court-martial, Congress? Beam me up.

The truth is these Pentagon fat cats have been sitting on their bureaucratic self-righteous brasses far too long. What is next, gentlemen? Chastity belts? I yield back the balance of all this adultery and crime.

IN HONOR OF THE RESIDENTS OF FARIBAULT, MN

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, next week we celebrate Memorial Day. I rise to commend the residents of Faribault, MN, for their traditional observance of this most sacred holiday.

The first observance of Memorial Day by the residents of Faribault, MN, was on May 30, 1869. Under the leadership of the local Grand Army of the Republic post, Capt. J.C. Turner, the post commander, took command and led the soldiers and citizens of Faribault, MN, on the first Memorial Day march. With colors and banners unfurled they marched to three local cemeteries where flags and flowers were placed on the graves of fallen comrades. A ceremony was held with a scripture reading and prayer led by Reverend Dubois.

This year the citizens of Faribault and the Rice County Veterans Association will once again participate in community activities, and proudly display the stars and stripes in honor of Faribault's fallen heroes and departed loved ones.

The people of Faribault serve as shining examples for their longstanding patriotism and commitment to civic duty.

LET US MOVE AMERICA TOWARD A BALANCED BUDGET IN A FAIR WAY

(Mr. SANDERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)