

million active viewers and participants each year.

The Chicago Daily Defender newspaper has been a haven and inspiration for renowned journalists and publishers such as Lu Palmer, Vernon, Jarret, Faith Christmas, John H. Johnson, and Chinta Strasburg, to name a few.

John Henry Herman Sengstacke was an adviser to Presidents Truman, Kennedy and Johnson. Through his influence with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Mr. Sengstacke arranged for the first African-American correspondent in White House history, Mr. Harry McAlpin. He also figured prominently in influencing President Roosevelt to hire African-Americans to work for the U.S. Postal Service. He received 10 Presidential appointments, including his selection by President Truman to serve on the committee on equality of treatment and opportunity in the Armed Forces, which resulted in desegregation of the military.

In the 1940's Paul Robeson and John Sengstacke arranged a meeting with Jim Landis, commissioner of baseball, and Branch Rickey, manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, which led to the hiring of Jackie Robinson to play major league baseball. He served as chairman of the board of Provident Hospital and Training School Association which rebuilt the Provident Medical Center which enabled the legendary hospital in which the world's first open heart surgery was performed by Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, to continue its services to African-Americans and others who live in its area.

Mr. Speaker, I express condolences to the Sengstacke family, friends and employees of the Defender newspapers on the occasion of his death.

John Sengstacke worked diligently to end racism, sexism, and anti-semitism. He fought for open housing, to educate children, to provide charitable services to humanity, to defend the U.S. Constitution, and to protect the rights of people throughout the world. John Henry Herman Sengstacke, a man who knew how to use a newspaper to become an influential and powerful American.

#### PROMOTING VALUES OF DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY IN CHINA

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to first thank my colleagues for their forbearance. I rise tonight to respond to the fact that this morning we saw the official beginning of the annual debate on the extension of most-favored-nation trading status for the People's Republic of China. Quite frankly, the term "Most Favored Nation" is, to use what is today the vernacular, I guess, a very inappropriate euphemism, e-u-o-n-y-m, to describe the trade relationship between the People's Republic of China and the United

States. I say that because it simply means that we would be continuing with normal trading relations that exist with virtually every other country on the face of the earth.

Like every Member of this House of Representatives, I am very troubled at the human rights violations that we have seen take place in China over the past several years. I am very troubled at the treatment of Tibet. I am very troubled at the saber-rattling which has taken place in the Taiwan Strait. The idea of weapons proliferation and transfer to Pakistan and Iran and potentially other nations troubles me greatly. I will say that, as we look at every single one of these very serious problems, we have to ask ourselves the question: How do we most effectively deal with those problems?

Mr. Speaker, it is extraordinarily obvious to me that the most effective way to deal with those problems is to continue to get our Western values into the most populous nation on the face of the earth. Some are unfortunately trying to equate the People's Republic of China with the former Soviet Union. The differences are very, very important and need to be underscored.

The Soviet Union had a policy of expansionism throughout eastern and central Europe. At this moment we are up in the Committee on Rules talking about the issue of NATO expansion, and obviously, the Chinese have not been involved in that. Look at the expansion that we saw by the Soviet Union into this hemisphere when through the decade of the 1980's we struggled with this continued pattern of assistance that went to the Communist dictatorship in Nicaragua, exporting its revolution into El Salvador and other countries. So the difference is very, very important.

Some people want to create another cold war enemy, Mr. Speaker. We should not do that. It would be irresponsible, a major mistake. The single most powerful force for positive change in the 4,000-year history of China has been the market reforms which have dramatically improved the standard of living. I am convinced that, if we were to in any way cut that off, we would not be isolating China from the United States or the world. What would happen is we would isolate the world's only complete superpower, the United States of America, from the most populous nation in the world.

So looking at the allies in that region, we also have to recognize that Hong Kong, which will revert to China in just about 3 weeks, very strongly supports our continuance of most-favored-nation trading status for the People's Republic of China. We have to look at religious leaders. Many religious leaders have come forward saying that their greatest opportunity to continue expanding their message into China is for us to maintain our engagement there.

So Mr. Speaker, the debate is going to rage on for the next several weeks.

I am very pleased that I am joined by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FOX), my friend and colleague, and many others in this House who understand that trade promotes private enterprise, which creates wealth, which improves living standards, which undermines political repression. It has happened in the last decade and a half in South Korea, Taiwan, Chile, and Argentina, and it is not going to happen overnight, but clearly, it will help in China. So let us maintain engagement.

When the resolution of disapproval does come up here on the House floor, I urge my colleagues to join in voting against it so that we can move ahead in our attempt to get our values, our great values of freedom and democracy and liberty throughout the entire world.

#### TRIBUTE TO EMIL CIAVARELLI

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a very special gentleman from my district in Montgomery County, PA, Emil J. Ciavarelli, a funeral director of great renown, a civil leader, an outstanding businessman, a proud father and grandfather, a wonderful husband, who recently died. He was a graduate of Ambler High School, Temple University and the former Eckels College of Mortuary Science in Philadelphia.

Mr. Ciavarelli was a member, organizer, and chartered chairman of the Montgomery County Funeral Directors Association. He was one of the few funeral directors, Mr. Speaker, selected by the U.S. Exchange program to tour the Middle East and Russia, observing funeral practices.

Mr. Ciavarelli was on the board of directors of Progress Federal Bank, the planning commission of Conshohocken and the Conshohocken school board. He has been a sponsor of the Babe Ruth Baseball League of Conshohocken and a church leader at St. Cosmas and Damian Church in Conshohocken, PA. In addition, he was the founder of the Christopher Columbus Civic Association of Philadelphia, PA. He was chosen to be involved in the 500th anniversary celebration of Christopher Columbus and had a special audience with Pope John Paul the Second. He was honored recently by the Italian Government and made a cavalier and member of the Cavaliers Society. He was a member of the Conshohocken Chamber of Commerce and he was given Man of the Year status in 1967.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ciavarelli was a former member and organizer of the Kiwanis Club of Conshohocken and he served as its club president. He was a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus and he was also a member of the Holy Name Society of St. Mary's R.C. Church, a member of the Washington Fire Company and Conshohocken

Fire Company and a regional representative of the Boy Scouts of America.

But more than all of the activities of Mr. Ciavarelli, he was someone who cared greatly for his community, his family, and for his country, and he was one proud American who really made a positive difference. So to my colleagues, he is someone special as a role model that others can look up to, not only in my community and State, but throughout the Nation.

#### CONTINUING RESOLUTION BEING HELD HOSTAGE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the supplemental appropriations bill; specifically, the provision of the bill known as the automatic continuing resolution, or CR.

Two weeks ago we left Washington without passing the supplemental appropriations measure. This was unfortunate. Unfortunately for all Americans, and in particular for the victims of the recent Midwestern floods, this important and well-meaning legislation has become a hostage because of the President and some Democrats who do not like this CR which was attached to this bill.

During the floor debate on the bill, the House voted overwhelmingly to amend the bill to include an automatic continuing resolution, a failsafe provision that would automatically and fully fund the 13 appropriation measures, should any or all fail to be passed into law. In other words, we added a commonsense provision to an already fair measure.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call it an insurance policy for the American people. The provision we are talking about that the President and some Democrats object to is quite simple and generous. Should any of the bills fail to become law by the end of the fiscal year, they would be fully funded at 100 percent of this year's funding level. In other words, there are no cuts, no elimination of any programs as a result of passage of the CR.

The President objects to this. Does the President want the opportunity to spend more money? Does he want an increased level? Furthermore, the passage of this simple CR would balance the budget within 5 years set forth in the budget agreement.

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It is incredible that we have the claims that supporting a balanced budget could actually impose a problem. But simply, if the President was truly serious about balancing the budget he would support the CR provision and Congress could at long last pass a much-needed disaster relief act.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, the President has promised to veto this impor-

tant legislation. It is a very unfortunate situation we have because the people in the flood-ravaged Midwest need this money. We have set aside money for them but they need this bill. But again, we have a CR attached to it and the President seems more concerned with making sure we do not pass this CR.

The troubling thing about the President's proclaimed opposition to this supplemental is that he claims to support the Republicans' efforts to preclude a Government shutdown. He has often stated publicly his desire to initiate a failsafe mechanism, but when push comes to shove and we present him with an opportunity, he refuses it.

He claims that America needs a solution. The CR is such a solution. I urge the President to support it. It is a simple and reasonable effort to protect the American people from the kind of partisan political battles that shut down the Government and suspended essential Government services 2 years ago, the kind of political battle the President claims he opposes.

Does the President want to shut down the Government? Does he want hardship and inconvenience? I do not think he does.

In other words, as if it were not bad enough to say, I am against a CR, he is also against a simple supplemental to help the flood victims. The proclaimed opposition to the CR has really nothing to do with the supplemental. Rather, the President's opposition is that he wants a fail-safe mechanism itself, and he does not think the CR does it, so he is going to veto it. But, Mr. Speaker, the majority of people on the House floor overwhelmingly supported this CR. It was a very large vote.

Let me conclude by saying to my colleagues, the Republican Party did not shut down the Federal Government in 1995, and we will not be responsible for a shutdown if it happens again. Back then the Congress sent to the President more than adequate appropriations bills, and he simply vetoed them. To preclude this from happening again we have included a simple insurance policy in the supplemental, and yet, Mr. Speaker, he is opposed to it.

In other words, we have included within this bill a provision to ensure the uninterrupted continuation of vital services like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans benefits. We have attempted to remove politics from the appropriations process, and yet the President unfortunately objects.

For the good of our country and the peace of mind of her citizens, we should pass into law this commonsense insurance mechanism, a CR that will keep the Government operational when partisan conflicts arise. I am an original cosponsor of this legislation and a longtime supporter of the ideals behind the CR. I urge the President to reconsider his position, not just for the immediate needs of the flood victims, but for the long-term good of the entire country.

#### THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SESSIONS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to talk, with several of my colleagues, about the Internal Revenue Service. The Internal Revenue Service, through a series of laws that have been passed for many years, has what is called the Internal Revenue Code. What this code is is it consists of two huge books that I am showing the audience tonight that are very thick with very fine print that talk about the tax laws of this country.

Tonight myself and my colleagues stand to talk about not only the Tax Code but the application of that Tax Code by citizens of this country, and also how they are judged in that Tax Code by the Internal Revenue Service.

Tonight we stand to talk about H.R. 1145, the Home-based Business Fairness Act of 1997. It allows self-employed entrepreneurs, which are the fastest growing and most dynamic sector of our economy, and as a simple matter of fairness, to deduct the expenses of a home office and 100 percent of their health insurance costs. H.R. 1145 also provides a clear definition of an independent contractor to help entrepreneurs avoid crippling IRS costs and fines.

This year small business cited the cost of health insurance as the No. 1 concern, and tax demands accounted for 6 of the 10 most severe problems confronting small business.

H.R. 1145 deals with both of these concerns, addressing the high cost of a home office and of health care. Because many small businesses use independent contractors, their business status is critical to the success of entrepreneurs all over this country.

An independent contractor is one who does work with the help of someone but who is not under that person's control. This allows entrepreneurs to work for themselves but with the assistance of a primary contractor, as a primary contractor does not have to withhold taxes for his independent contractors, and that is why this issue is so important.

What we would like to discuss tonight is H.R. 1145 and how this is going to play out. We have any number of issues to discuss, including factors and criteria which the IRS uses to determine these independent contractors. But as I talk tonight, what we would like to do is further examine what is happening in the marketplace. As we talk about the marketplace, what we are talking about is small businesses, men and women who are attempting not only to do work out of their home, but also work in industry and work in business.

What we would like to do is to provide several examples of how the factors that are based upon the 20-point