

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO JODY HALL-ESSER

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute today to Mrs. Jody Hall-Esser Chief Administrative Officer for the city of Culver City, California. On July 9, 1999, Mrs. Hall-Esser, will retire from city government capping a distinguished career spanning a quarter of a century in public service to her community. To honor Jody for her many years of exemplary service to the citizens of Culver City, a celebration in her honor will be held at the Culver City City Hall on Wednesday, July 7. As one who has worked closely with this extraordinary and selfless public servant for many years, and who possesses first-hand knowledge of her outstanding service to our community, I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly recognize and commend her before my colleagues here today.

Jody has served in many capacities since joining the Culver City government in 1971. She was initially hired as the first Director of the Culver City Senior Citizens Center, a position she held for a few years before leaving to work in the private sector. In 1976 she returned to the city as the first Housing Manager in the Community Development Department, where she spent the next three years designing and executing Culver City's rent subsidy and residential rehabilitation loan and grant programs. She also is credited with implementing the construction of the city's first rental housing development for the low-income elderly citizens of Culver City.

In 1979 Jody was named Community Development Director and Assistant Executive Director of the Culver City Redevelopment Agency. For more than a decade, she headed the city agency tasked with Planning, Engineering, Redevelopment, Housing and Grants operations. Among her many accomplishments were establishment of the Landlord-Tenant Mediation Board; the Art in Public Places Program; and the Historic Preservation Program.

Jody was appointed Chief Administrative Officer and Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency in 1991. For the past nine years, her many responsibilities have included implementing public policy mandates promulgated by the Culver City City Council, as well as managing the city's human, financial, and material resources. She has compiled an impressive and enviable record of accomplishments, despite seeing the city through a period of civil unrest, a major earthquake, damage caused by torrential rains, and a severe economic recession. While just one of these occurrences would test the tolerance of most individuals—not Jody Hall-Esser. She merely redoubled her efforts to ensure that the residents of Culver City received the necessary local, state, and federal resources they needed to remain afloat.

Jody Hall-Esser is an exceptional woman and her presence around city hall will be sorely missed. She has made enormous contributions to Culver City and leaves a legacy that will stand the test of time.

It has been a privilege to work with her, and it is a special pleasure to have this opportunity to highlight just a few of her exemplary achievements with my colleagues. On behalf of the residents of the 32nd Congressional District of California, I salute her and publicly thank her for her numerous contributions to our wonderful city and for her outstanding public service career.

Congratulations, Jody! I wish you, Jack, and your family a future that is filled with great joy, good health, and abundant prosperity. You've earned it!

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL DENNIS J. REIMER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to recognize the outstanding service to our Nation of General Dennis J. Reimer, the Army's 33rd Chief of Staff who will retire on June 21, 1999. General Reimer's career spanned over 36 years during which he distinguished himself as a soldier, leader, and trusted advisor to both the President and the U.S. Congress.

As chief of Staff, General Reimer prepared our Nation's Army well for the challenges of the 21st Century. He leaves the Army trained and ready, a disciplined force that supports our Nation and its interests in 81 countries around the globe. In a period fraught with leadership challenges, General Reimer defined the Army's values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage throughout the total force. As a result of his efforts, he created a seamless force which maximizes the unique and complementary capabilities of its three components—Active, Army Reserve and National Guard, creating a "Total Army." He can take great pride in the Army's accomplishments and preparedness. General Reimer created the vision and set the stage for the Army of the 21st Century, a strategically responsive force.

Throughout his career, General Reimer distinguished himself in numerous command and staff positions with U.S. Forces stationed both overseas and in the continental United States. In Asia, he served two tours of duty in Vietnam and a tour in Korea. In Europe his assignments included Commander, Division Artillery and Chief of Staff of the 8th Infantry Division. General Reimer's stateside assignments included serving as the Commanding General, 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Carson, Colorado, and Commanding General, Forces Command, at Fort McPherson, Georgia. Since June 1995, General Reimer has served in his present assignment as the 33rd U.S. Army Chief of Staff.

Mr. Speaker, General Reimer has dedicated his life to our soldiers and our Nation. He has served our Nation with honor and distinction. I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding American patriot and wishing him well upon his retirement from the Army. He is truly a "Leader of Leaders" and will be sorely missed.

HONORING THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for their past successes and continued effort to encourage small business development in the San Joaquin Valley.

I want to congratulate the 1999 Board of Directors for the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at their 15th Annual Installation of Officers Dinner and Gala. The Board members are: *Executive Committee*: Gilbert Servin-President, Danny Parra-President Elect, Rosemarie Rosales-Secretary, Gustavo Corona-Treasurer. *Board Members*: Leonel Alvarado, Santiago Guvera, Olivia Hastings, Gloria Morales Palacios.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Central Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for 15 years of outstanding service. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them best wishes for many more years of continued success.

WHEAT PRICES LOW IN COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, every year since being elected to Congress, I have participated in a wheat tour sponsored by the Colorado Association of Wheat Growers and the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee.

Typically, I have reported to this House, the findings of the tour. However, this year, I will be content to submit to the RECORD a newspaper article written by Jean Gray, publisher of the Haxtun-Fleming Herald. The article clearly describes the challenge facing wheat growers and requires no additional comment.

Mr. Speaker, America's wheat growers have suffered record-low prices for three years running. I hereby commend the account of Jean Gray to all Members and submit it now for the RECORD.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

[From the Haxtun-Fleming Herald, June 9, 1999]

CONGRESSMAN SITS AT THE TABLE OF FARMERS

(By Jean Gray)

Even as agriculture struggles with low commodity prices, American farmers continue to do what they do best, feed the human race.

A prime example occurred this past Saturday, June 5, as 65 people sat down to a luncheon at the home of local producers, Richard and Cathy Starkebaum. The occasion was a visit to the area by United States Congressman Bob Schaffer (R-Colo.) Schaffer's visit was sponsored by the Colorado Association of Wheat Growers and the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee.

This was the third-annual CAWG/CWAC tour. Prior to Schaffer's being elected to Congress, his predecessor Wayne Allard participated in the event. According to Jay Wisdom, president of CAWG, the tour has been held in the southern part of the state the last two years. "Congressman Schaffer asked that it be held in northeastern Colorado this year," said Wisdom. "And Rich graciously agreed to host it."

The visit started with a tour of some area wheat fields and culminated with the buffet lunch of barbecue-beef sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans and condiments provided by caterer Joyce Schepler of Fleming.

Thanks to recent rains, the wheat in northeastern Colorado appears healthy with full heads of grain, but prices remain depressed. Darrell Hanavan, executive director of CAWG/CWAC, said that one of the first things the group did that morning was to go through the history of the wheat market. "What we discovered is that wheat prices are at the lowest level since 1991-92," said Hanavan. On Saturday, the wheat market closed at \$2.25 per bushel, according to Jan Workman, Grainland Cooperative, Haxtun. Workman said the Coop's records show that wheat was at \$2.34 per bushel on July 15, 1991, and on July 15, 1990, it was at \$2.56 per bushel. Workman said she has seen wheat at \$2.20 and \$2.13 at harvest time, but could not recall the years.

Wisdom explained to those attending that CAWG is a dues-paying organization that lobbies government, both on the state and federal level, on issues that affect wheat producers. He pointed out that Schaffer is the wheat leader for the State of Colorado in Washington. "The rest of Congress looks to Congressman Schaffer for advice when they vote on ag-related issues," said Wisdom.

He also reported that there have been some success in Colorado recently, specifically with the passage of two pieces of state legislation that offer tax relief to producers. "That will help because we desperately need an influx of money into the ag community," said Wisdom.

Wisdom was referring to House Bills 99-1002 and 99-1381. Both were passed during the 1999 legislative session, and both take effect on July 1, 1999. The two bills are expected to offer \$6.2 million in tax relief to Colorado farmers.

House Bill 99-1102, which was partially sponsored by District One State Senator Marilyn Musgrave, exempts farm equipment from state sales tax.

Senator Musgrave was also involved in sponsoring House Bill 99-1381, which exempts chemicals used in the production of agriculture products from state sales tax. State Representative Diane Hoppe, 65th District, also helped sponsor the measure. Phillips and Logan counties are located in both the 65th House District and Senate District One.

Wisdom said that CAWG is also working on getting some legislation passed that will

make crop insurance more beneficial to farmers. "We are trying to get a safety net program set up," said Wisdom. "It is tough out there."

CAWG has done a good job in its lobbying efforts over the past two years, said Wisdom. "But there's a lot of resistance out there right now. Agriculture is hurting and Congressman Schaffer knows it, so this is your chance to hit him up about your issues."

Brad Barth, a Larimer producer who serves as president of CWAC, thanked Schaffer for his strong support of the wheat industry and said the group is looking forward to working with the Congressman on future issues.

Congressman Schaffer, 36, is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, but now resides in Fort Collins. He and his wife, Maureen, have four children ranging in age from three to 11. He currently serves on the House agriculture committee.

Barth noted that there are only five members of Congress who represent larger agriculture areas than Schaffer does.

Schaffer told the group that attending these tours helps him represent the ag community better. "When I am standing on the House floor talking about the farmers I just met, and the fields that I just walked, it gives me a lot more authority when I talk about agriculture issues." He added that he needs input from producers like them to do his job well. "With the wide range of topics we deal with in Washington, sometimes agriculture can be overlooked," said Schaffer.

With respect to the American people's apathy to the recent scandals coming out of Washington, Schaffer said the reason most give is that the economy is doing so well. "Most feel as long as the economy is doing well they could care less about the scandal and corruption that is going on," said Schaffer.

He added, however, that while the economy is good for most segments of the business community, that is not true in agriculture. "The biggest reason is trade," said Schaffer. "When it comes to cars, computers, and other hi-tech manufacturing, the United States is doing well because they have worked hard at opening those areas of trade. But when they sit down with a representative from these other countries, they have to offer some kind of trade in return. The only thing these other countries have to offer is agriculture products, so American farmers have gotten a bad rap."

He added that it is a big political battle. "One that we have to be prepared to fight." He said one way to fight is through organizations like CAWG/CWAC and he encouraged them to join and participate.

PRESIDENT CLINTON ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE—REAFFIRMS AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL LABOR RIGHTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today at the Geneva Conference of the International Labor Organization, President Clinton became the first President of the United States to address the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva. In this particularly excellent address, the President reaffirmed in the strongest terms the commitment of the United States to the ILO and to the protection of international labor rights.

The ILO—an organization established in the aftermath of World War I and affiliated with the United Nations after its creation in 1945—is in the forefront of the fight to assure that workers have the right to organize, the right to bargain collectively, the right to a safe work place, and the rights to speak out and to assemble in the defense and protection of these rights.

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton also called attention in particular to the fight of the United States against abusive child labor. In far too many places around, children are forced to work unconscionably long hours, which interferes with their education and limits their future opportunities. More serious is the exploitation of children in pornography and prostitution, which happens in many places around the globe. Children are recruited by some governments and by some political movements to serve in military conflicts, and we must work to end that pernicious practice. Children also work in hazardous and dangerous occupations where they risk their lives, their health, and their future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the request of the President to the Congress to provide \$25 million in funding to help create a new arm of the ILO to work with developing countries to put basic labor standards in place to assure workers in these countries basic health and safety protections as well as assuring them the right to organize. I also urge support of the President's request to the Congress for \$10 million to strengthen U.S. bilateral support for governments seeking to raise their own fundamental labor standards. I also urge support for the President's requests for funding of programs to reduce child labor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that President Clinton's outstanding address to the International Labor Organization be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give thoughtful attention to his excellent remarks.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE

THE PRESIDENT. Thank you very much, Director General Somavia, for your fine statement and your excellent work. Conference President Mumuni, Director General Petrovsky, ladies and gentlemen of the ILO: It is a great honor for me to be here today with, as you have noticed, quite a large American delegation. I hope you will take it as a commitment of the United States to our shared vision, and not simply as a burning desire for us to visit this beautiful city on every possible opportunity.

I am delighted to be here with Secretary Albright and Secretary of Labor Herman; with my National Economic Advisor Gene Sperling, and my National Security Advisor Sandy Berger. We're delighted to be joined by the President of the American Federation of Labor, the AFL-CIO, John Sweeney, and several of the leaders of the U.S. labor movement; and with Senator TOM HARKIN from Iowa who is the foremost advocate in the United States of the abolition of child labor. I am grateful to all of them for coming with me, and to the First Lady and our daughter for joining us on this trip. And I thank you for your warm reception of her presence here.

It is indeed an honor for me to be the first American President to speak before the ILO in Geneva. It is long overdue. There is no organization that has worked harder to bring people together around fundamental human aspirations, and no organization whose mission is more vital for today and tomorrow.

The ILO, as the Director General said, was created in the wake of the devastation of