

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE BUDGET

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, a battle over the budget has engulfed Congress. I am saddened by the extent to which the Republican leadership has allowed partisan politics to pollute this distinguished body and shift the budget debate from substance to sound-bites.

With only seven of thirteen spending bills signed into law, the budget for fiscal year 2000 is far from complete. Moreover, Congress has been forced to fund the government through temporary stop-gap spending measures in order to avoid a shutdown of national parks, monuments, agencies, and the federal government. Yet rather than sit down and negotiate with the administration and the Democrats in the House and Senate, Republicans have chosen to take the path of confrontation rather than compromise.

The cause is misplaced priorities, and the effect is a bad budget. Republicans made a choice to fund their own priorities, while completely ignoring the priorities of the American people, Democratic members, and the administration. In the process of drafting spending bills for fiscal year 2000, they shut out the minority and proceeded to go their own way. Now they point fingers when their irresponsible bills are vetoed because they fail to sufficiently fund the priorities of the American people: Programs essential to education, defense, and senior citizens.

Left out of their spending proposals are key Democratic initiatives such as funding for 100,000 new teachers and smaller classes, funding for the COPS program which provides grants to local communities for hiring more police officers, and funding for a Medicare prescription drug benefit. These programs have been completely left out of the Republican budget. Yet when Democrats fight for funding for these key initiatives, we are falsely accused of proposing more spending. The truth is, we do not want more spending. Rather, we advocate different spending. Instead of giving priority to a member pay raise and member earmarked projects, let's fund the initiatives that count. Sadly, Republicans have ignored our pleas and instead chosen to resort to name-calling and groundless accusations.

One of our primary initiatives must be to protect Social Security. I propose taking it completely off-budget. Social Security funds must be used only for Social Security. However, the Congressional Budget Office, the Republican-appointed budget score-keepers, confirm that the Republicans are already on their way to spending at least \$25 billion of the Social Security trust fund.

Adding insult to injury, Republicans have tried to cover up their irresponsible spending and penchant for dipping into Social Security through numerous gimmicks and accounting tricks designed to fool the American people

into believing their false claims of good fiscal policy. These gimmicks range from declaring the 2000 census, something which happens every ten years as required by the Constitution, as emergency spending. This spending dips directly into Social Security. In addition to emergency designations, Republicans have also proposed adopting a thirteen-month fiscal year, tried to withhold payment of tax credits to the working poor and "forward-fund" certain programs, thereby attempting to count this year's spending in next year's budget. These gimmicks are dishonest and unacceptable to the American people.

When the administration sent its budget recommendation to Congress almost one year ago, Congress rejected it and promised the American people we would pass an even better budget that protected important programs without dipping into the Social Security trust fund. Rather than fulfill this promise to the people, Republicans have opted for a political showdown. The result is a completely unnecessary, wholly manufactured crisis over the budget.

Republicans have chosen rhetoric over responsibility and taken the partisan path towards a 1.4 percent across-the-board budget cut which will have costly ramifications on critical programs. Specifically, education for the disadvantaged would be cut by \$109 million, literacy programs would be cut by \$3.6 million, and Head Start would be unable to provide services to 6,700 children. Child immunization programs would be cut by approximately \$6.7 million, and vitally needed assistance to farmers would be slashed by \$124 million.

Agricultural income assistance would be cut by \$90 million, and crop and livestock loss payments would be cut by \$22 million. In addition, national security would suffer dearly as \$3.9 billion would be cut from the defense budget. Military pay and readiness would suffer the most. The men and women in the military who risk their lives for our safety and security would suffer a 2.8 percent cut in personnel.

While this battle rages on over the politics of the budget, the American people suffer. As Republicans focus the energy of the Congress on their budget end game, the Patients Bill of Rights, relief for farmers and veterans' benefits face a dismal future. While Republicans devise more gimmicks to cover their tracks, Congress neglects a long overdue increase in the minimum wage, making schools safer for our children, and passing much-deserved tax relief for families, small businesses, and farmers.

In a tragic example of irresponsible governance, the majority party has chosen to fund its own priorities at the cost of Social Security and drastic budget cuts in education, law enforcement, agriculture, and national security. It's time for Republicans to sit down at the negotiating table and put an end to the budget bickering. It's time for responsible government. Let's choose principle over politics, and let's pass a budget that doesn't short-change the American people.

RECOGNITION OF REV. ALFRED WALKER, JR., AND NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rev. Alfred Walker, Jr., the 12th pastor of the historic New Hope Baptist Church in Dallas, TX.

Reverend Walker has served New Hope Baptist Church with unwavering faith. His fine tradition of spiritual guidance and community service is an inspiration to us all.

New Hope Baptist Church is blessed to have called Reverend Walker its pastor. Likewise, the Reverend was fortunate to serve a church with such a rich history.

New Hope has the distinction of being the first African-American church within the city limits of Dallas entirely organized and owned by African-American people. In the 1870's, Sisters Rainey, Robinson, Drake, Williams, Starke, Taylor, and Brother Jerry Taylor held regular prayer meetings. On July 27, 1873, these spiritual leaders organized their prayer band into a church. Many direct descendants of these pioneers continue to worship at New Hope.

In addition to its religious programs, the church has been a strong force in the community. New Hope sponsored one of the earliest African-American newspapers, and it has offered etiquette and public speaking classes to interested citizens. The church constructed the historic building at 919 Bogel Street, that became the center for cultural, political, and educational activities. Also, the first free public schools for African-Americans in Dallas were organized at New Hope Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the grateful congregation of New Hope Baptist Church, I commend Rev. Alfred Walker, Jr., for his dedication to the church and the community. I also commend Dallas' oldest African-American Christian Witness, New Hope Baptist Church, for 126 years of continuous community service.

HONORING EULAH LAUCKS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues an extraordinary woman, who was honored by family and friends on October 22nd as she celebrated her 90th birthday in Santa Barbara, California.

Eulah Laucks has become a good friend and mentor to me, and I want to mention just a few of her many accomplishments. Eulah was born on October 23, 1909 in Goldhill, Nevada. After completing high school, she

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worked for six years at a Tuberculosis Sanatorium to pay for her own college education. Her hard work paid off and in 1933 she began her studies in journalism at the University of Washington. Eulah had a very successful college career and in 1936, during her last year in school, she traveled to Italy to study. Eulah soon became fascinated with the people and the turbulent changes in government that were taking place in Europe.

In 1942, Eulah married Irving Laucks, whom she met while working in the public relations department of the chemical analysis lab he owned in Seattle. In 1964 the Laucks moved to Santa Barbara. Irving soon began work as a consultant for the Santa Barbara Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions. When Irving left the Center, Eulah continued this important work, where she served on the board in 1966 with my husband, Walter Capps. Eulah's passion for knowledge and commitment to learning did not end in college or with her work at UCSB. In 1979 at the age of 70, she earned a Ph.D. in Family Studies. Her research culminated in a book, "The Meaning of Children in Contemporary America," which she published shortly after receiving her degree. In 1996, Eulah completed another book about her childhood memories in Nevada mining country.

Mr. Speaker, as impressive as any complete accounting of Eulah's life would be, it would not do justice to the long lasting and immeasurable contributions she has made in Santa Barbara. I find myself to be exceptionally fortunate to be a friend of Eulah Laucks. She is an incredibly progressive, strong willed, and independent person. Eulah was also very close to my husband, Walter Capps. I know that they often encouraged and supported one another in their faith and commitment to others. He valued her insight and wisdom immensely.

Eulah Laucks will continue to commit much of her energy to the values and ideals that she loves—the well-being of children, education for all, world peace, and protecting our environment. I am truly honored to represent Eulah Laucks in Washington and to incorporate her ideals in my work as a citizen representative.

TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOREES OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Community Service Honorees of the Japanese American Citizens League. On Thursday, December 9th, the JACL will host a recognition dinner to honor these citizens' outstanding contributions to their community. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting this special occasion.

This year's first nominee for service to the Nikkei community is Midori Hiyama. A long time faculty member and head of the English Department at Sacramento City College, she is being recognized for many decades of service to the Sacramento Japanese American community in the academic field. Along with Henry Taketa and others, she built up the Sacramento JACL Scholarship Program to the largest such program at the chapter level.

Next, the JACL will honor Percy and Gladys Masaki. The late Percy Masaki and his wife Gladys have dedicated many years of service to the Sacramento JACL, especially during the early formation of the local chapter. Their contributions included providing many years of rent-free space and committing thousands of hours of volunteer time. Their volunteer efforts focused in the areas of coordination of community events and the publishing and distribution of the chapter newsletters.

Another esteemed honoree will be Shigeru Shimazu. Known simply as Shig, Mr. Shimazu is being honored for his forty years of invaluable service to the Sacramento Nikkei community. He has remained a consistently active and productive member of the Japanese American community. Although he is not always openly visible during his participation in community functions, his contributions during the past decades have been outstanding.

The Sacramento JACL would also like to recognize the contributions of the Union Bank of California. Union Bank will represent the corporate honoree at this year's Community Service Recognition Dinner. This financial institution has remained supportive of the JACL and many other Japanese American organizations in the entire state.

The contributions of the Union Bank of California have extended beyond the JACL to areas such as various churches, tanoshimi kais, the Asian Community Nursing Home, Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, and public television's Channel 6. Their policy of service charge free accounts to all non-profit organizations has been appreciated.

In addition, Anne Rudin has been selected for recognition. The former mayor of Sacramento will be the only non-Nikkei honoree of 1999. She has been extremely active in the Japanese American community for the past three decades. Not only was she the first Honorary Chair of Matsuyama-Sacramento Sister City Corporation, but she has traveled to Japan several times as a delegate to the Japan-U.S. Mayors Conference and as a member of the Sacramento contingent to the Sister City conferences.

The last nominee of this year's banquet will be James Maddock and the Sacramento Bee. Mr. Maddock of the FBI and the Sacramento Bee (represented by Howard Weaver) are being nominated for their support during the recent arson attacks on three Jewish synagogues. Because of their intensive and active support during the aftermath of these terrible events, the citizens of the Sacramento area have rallied together in opposition to such hate crimes.

Mr. Speaker, as these exceptional people and organizations are honored by the Japanese American Citizens League, I am proud to give my heart-felt endorsement. These people and organizations have all contributed immensely to the betterment of the Japanese American community in Sacramento. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing the honorees and the JACL continued success in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE ON THE 11TH AN- NIVERSARY OF PATIENT REC- OGNITION DAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 1999, for the 11th year in a row, the Board of Visitors of the Bronx Psychiatric Center held its "Patient Recognition Day."

This day recognizes those who have significantly progressed on the path toward eventual discharge back to the community, and have made a positive impact on the lives of their peers in their wards.

The dedication of the professional staff at Bronx Psychiatric Center has contributed to the recovery process of the patients by putting great care and pride in their work.

The family and friends of the patients who lend so much support and understanding are also recognized, but the greatest honor is reserved for the patients who, in having trusted and worked with the staff, have made great strides on their journey towards recovery.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 11th anniversary of Patient Recognition Day at the Bronx Psychiatric Center, I would like to recognize Samuel Lopez, the President of the Board of Visitors, as well as Sylvia Lask, Nellie Neazer, and Richard Somer who oversee the center, as well as the patients.

HONORING MICHAEL BERRY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and congratulate a very close friend as he marks the close of a very significant chapter of his life: practice law.

Michael Berry has served as a model of community leadership throughout his career as an attorney and public servant, and he is fully deserving of the tribute to be given this Friday in Dearborn, Michigan.

Earlier this year, Michael ended the 45-year existence of his law firm, Berry, Francis, Seifman, Salamey and Harris. During these years, Michael represented a wide variety of clients, while becoming involved in a myriad of business, civic, legal and political organizations. His participation in literally scores of activities demonstrates Michael's long-standing commitment to making his community a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Michael served as a Wayne County Public Administrator from 1956-78, and for 15 years as a Member and Chairman of the Board of the Wayne County Road Commission. Having helped build the infrastructure for one of the nation's largest counties, the county rightfully designated Detroit Metropolitan Airport's international terminal in Michael's name, a designation which was particularly fitting given Michael's family heritage as a Lebanese-American.

Throughout my service in Congress, Michael has been a leader among leaders in southeast Michigan's Arab-American community. As such he has devoted countless hours