

These lobbyists roaming the halls right outside the doors here and over in the committee meetings, they harass you as you walk down the hallway trying to get you to keep all this authority and power in Washington so that they can manipulate it and they can derive their power from these rules and regulations.

Well, the children really do not have lobbyists around here. All they have are us. I am proud to take up that challenge. I am proud to represent children in American schools today who deserve a good quality, first rate education. They deserve teachers who are not constrained by the rules of Washington but are able to have the full liberty to teach and where children have the freedom to learn.

I have got four of these children myself. They are getting ready for bed right now out in Colorado, where it is 9:18; and they will be getting up shortly and heading off to school in a public school tomorrow. And I want those teachers to have the greatest amount of academic liberty. I do not want these people running around the hallways here to decide what is in the best interest of my children.

That is what the Straight A's bill represented. It was a bill to help local schools do better. Those who oppose the Straight A's, those who were in favor of the President's plan also to define how these monies will be spent are really not in favor of children. And that is the difference of opinion that we are proud to stand on the side of children.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, children do not pay dues. That is what it gets down to.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following "dear colleague" letter:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, November 9, 1999.

DEAR COLLEAGUE: Last week, President Clinton vetoed a bill that called for a 1 percent cut in discretionary spending throughout the Federal Government, saying the loss would place too great a burden on American families. The one-penny-on-the-dollar budget cut would not have affected entitlement programs, such as Social Security, Medicare or welfare programs. Meanwhile, however, the ongoing financial waste in the Government far exceeds the proposed 1 percent cut. The following list is merely a sampling of the problems found within the departments and agencies of the executive branch, all of whom report to the President. Unless otherwise noted, examples were received in testimony before the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology. Some of the waste in Cabinet departments and agencies are:

Agriculture—In FY 1997, the department erroneously issued about \$1 billion in food stamp overpayments, amounting to approximately 5 percent of the entire food stamp program. (GAO Report)

Defense—The department spent nearly \$40 billion on programs for 15 overseas telecommunications systems that cannot be fully used because the department failed to obtain proper certifications and approvals from the host nations, according to a 1999 inspector general audit. (DOD OIG Report)

In September 1997, the Defense Department's inventory contained \$11 billion worth of unneeded equipment. (GAO Report)

Over the last three years, the Department of the Navy wrote off \$3 billion of inventory lost in transit. (GAO Report)

During a five-year period, defense contractors voluntarily returned \$4.6 billion in overpayments the department failed to detect. (GAO Report)

The Defense Department spent an estimated \$54 million on newly developed indoor firing ranges that are not being used. (DOD OIG Report)

Education—In FY 1997, the Federal Government spent more than \$3.3 billion in loan guarantees for defaulted student loans, according to a GAO audit. In addition, the department had over-paid 102,000 students Pell grants totaling \$109 million. The audit also found that 1,200 students falsely claimed veteran status to increase their eligibility to the program, costing taxpayers \$1.9 million. (GAO Report)

Energy—Between 1980 and 1996, the Department of Energy spent more than \$10 billion for 31 systems acquisition projects that were terminated before completion. (GAO Report)

Health and Human Services—The Health Care Financing Administration erroneously spent \$12.6 billion in overpayments to health care providers in its Medicare fee-for-service program during FY 1998 (the most recent available). HCFA has not yet assessed the potential problem in its \$33 billion Medicare Managed Care program or \$98 billion Medicaid program.

Housing and Urban Development—The department estimated that it spent \$857 million in 1998 in erroneous rent subsidy payments in FY 1998, about 5 percent of the entire program budget. (HUD OIG Report)

A General Accounting Office report suggests HUD's FY 1999 budget request for \$4.8 billion to renew and amend Section 8 tenant-based assisted housing contracts could have been reduced by \$489 million.

Interior—The Bureau of Land Management spent an estimated \$411 million on its Automated Land and Mineral Record System over a 15 year period, only to discover that the major software component, the Initial Operating Capability (IOC), failed to meet the bureau's business needs. The bureau decided not to deploy IOC and is now analyzing whether it can salvage any of the \$67 million it spent on system software. (GAO Report)

Justice—The U.S. Marshals Service was unable to locate 2,775 pieces of property worth nearly \$3.5 million, according to a 1997 inspector general audit. In addition, the agency's inventory contained nearly 5,070 items, valued at more than \$4 million, that were unused. (DOJ OIG Report)

Labor—From 1995 to 1997, the department spent \$1 billion on its Job Corps program, only to later discover that 76 percent of its graduates had been laid off, fired or quit their first jobs within 100 days of being hired. (DOL OIG Report)

Transportation—The Federal Aviation Administration spent \$4 billion on an air traffic modernization program that didn't work, and was shut down before completion. The GAO remains concerned about the agency's poor accounting, and lack of control over assets and costs as the agency proceeds with its new \$42 billion Air Traffic Modernization program.

Treasury—The IRS estimates it can collect only 11 percent of \$22 billion in delinquent taxes owed the Government.

Veterans Affairs—An estimated \$26.2 million a year in overpayments could be prevented if the Veterans Benefit Administration's policy (VBA) and procedures were revised and cases were properly processed, according to the department's inspector gen-

eral. In 1995, the VBA waived \$11.6 million in beneficiary debts owed to the VA, even though there was no evidence of records to support the actions. (GAO Report)

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation—Currently, the States of California and Florida are holding as unclaimed property about \$3.3 million that belongs to the FDIC or its receiverships. Similar problems were identified in 23 of the 24 states audited, for which no value was determined. (OIG Report)

Officer of Personnel Management—In the last three years, the agency's inspector general issued 128 reports, questioning \$280.3 million in inappropriate charges to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. (OPM OIG Report)

Small Business Administration—The agency requested and received a FY 1997 appropriation that included \$50 million more than it needed for its \$7.8 billion loan guarantees for the general business loan program. (GAO Report)

Social Security Administration—During FY 1998, the department erroneously spent \$3.3 billion in Supplemental Security Income overpayments. (GAO Report)

These examples illustrate the fact that every department and agency in the Federal Government can find savings if they are willing to tighten their belt and undergo greater management scrutiny and better use of taxpayer's funds. That has been my goal since arriving in Washington. It is a goal that I believe that we all share. The President's concern about American families is best served by insisting that the departments and agencies under his command run their financial affairs in a responsible, business-like manner.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN HORN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Government
Management, Information, and
Technology.

HONORING THE TOP TEN BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robyn Black, Pilar De La Cruz, Jan Outlar-Edwards, Marvell French, Edna Garabedian, Valerie Rae Hannerman, Annette La Rue, Margaret Mims, Judy Sakaki, and Gloria Williams as the Top Ten Business Professional Women of the Year.

Robyn A. Black is a Legislative Advocate at Aaron Read & Associates. Robyn is a fourth generation family farmer and has spent much of her life working on behalf of California agriculture. She believes in helping others "find their voice" in order to advocate their beliefs and effect change. Her tenure as Chair of the State's Industrial Welfare Commission under Governor Wilson taught her "that you need to stand by your decisions when you believe you have done your best."

Pilar De La Cruz, RN, B.S.N. is Vice President, Ed Development/Human Resources at Community Medical Centers. Pilar is first, foremost, and proudly, a Registered Nurse, although she serves our community in many capacities. Pilar has been instrumental in founding the Jefferson Job Institute for Community Medical Centers, an entry-level job training program for low-income parents of school-age

children. Through this program parents gain self-confidence skills and pride which helps them obtain employment in the community. The program has grown to include two other schools and is one of the most successful programs in Fresno County for getting people back to work.

Jan Outlar-Edwards, M.S. is Media Director of Gottschalks. Jan says that "Real success is a collaborative effort." The success Jan has experienced in her profession is a direct result of collaboration with those who have traveled before and were kind enough to stop and take the time to teach her. She has spearheaded several programs such as "Coats for Kids" and volunteers with the Fresno High Mentoring Program. Networking is one of Jan's passions.

Marvell French is Senior Vice-President/Sales Administrator of Regency Bank. Marvell is president of the American Cancer Society, a member of the American Heart Association, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, and CARE Fresno, where she will oversee their annual fund-raiser, the Police and Firefighter of the Year Annual Ball. Marvell's goal and commitment to her business and community is to make a difference and bring about positive change.

Edna Garabedian is the Artistic Director at the Fresno International Grand Opera. Edna believes education is the core of human experience. Her most significant contribution has not been the furthering of her own career, but the educational enrichment of others. Her vision and more than four years of hard work have become reality in the creation of the Fresno International Grand Opera. Her work with F.I.G. has allowed Edna to work with at-risk youths in our community and inspire a sense of confidence and direction in their lives.

Valerie Rae Hanneman is Director of Fiscal Services of Central California Legal Services. Valerie believes in giving people a helping hand, taking a chance on them, and applauding their success. She has made it a practice in her career to hire people who need a helping hand and encourages similar hiring throughout her organization. Valerie's philosophy carries over into her volunteer capacity with CARE Fresno where she is a lead site director. She directs and coordinates the program, but more importantly, interacts with the children.

Annette La Rue is a Retired Judge. Throughout her career as an attorney and judge, Annette has encouraged women to "take the next step" in the law profession by starting their own practices and running for judgeships. Her years of service have resulted in many awards, including the Fresno County Bar Association Bernard E. Witkin Lifetime Achievement Award and the 1999 Outstanding Hastings Law School Alumnus of the Year. Annette is a founder of the Salvation Army Rosecrest home for women substance abusers, co-chairs the Rotary Club's environmental committee, and sits on the Fresno Philharmonic board.

Margaret Mims is Deputy Sheriff Lieutenant of Fresno County Sheriff's Department. Margaret was hired in 1980 as the first female officer for the Kerman Police Department; Margaret is now the first woman Deputy Sheriff to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant. She has worked hard throughout her career to improve victim advocacy, and has been instrumental in

integrating community-based organizations with law enforcement. Margaret worked to obtain a grant and initiated a program to place advocates in police agencies. Her idea of placing advocates in police agencies has been used as a model for rape counseling service agencies throughout California.

Judy K. Sakaki, Ph.D., is Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at California State University, Fresno. Judy is the highest-ranking Asian-American woman administrator in the California State University system. As Vice President for Student Affairs at CSU, Fresno, she has been able to help students from diverse backgrounds succeed by creating services and programs which meet their needs. She is most proud of the help she provides students, encouraging them to talk with each other irrespective of racial or ethnic differences, to share their feelings of anger, helplessness, and hope.

Gloria Williams is Vice President/Designated Nurse Executive at Valley Children's Hospital. Gloria has used her leadership abilities to effect innovative change in her profession and community. She was named as one of the Top Ten Nurses in the state by NurseWeek Magazine in 1994, and this year was appointed to their Executive Advisory Board. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Alternative Sentencing Program and is involved in overseeing screening activities that place people in rehabilitation programs as an alternative to prison time. Gloria currently leads a nursing task force to implement accelerated nursing degree programs and designs curriculum for classes at Fresno City College and CSU/Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the Top Ten Business Professional Women of the Year for 1999. Each one of these women have gone above and beyond their professional jobs to provide services and create programs for the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Top Ten Business professional Women many more years of continued success.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES CHARLES WOKANECH

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Charles Wowkanech, who has served the labor movement in a variety of capacities over the last 25 years. Since January of 1997, Mr. Wowkanech has led local union members as the president of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO.

Mr. Wowkanech began his career as a business representative for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 68 in West Caldwell, NJ. There he was responsible for organizing and negotiating contracts covering employee health benefits plans statewide in industrial and commercial complexes. After joining the NJ state AFL-CIO in March of 1990, Mr. Wowkanech served for 6 years as assistant to the president, representing the organization on health insurance matters and in all related legislative activities.

Mr. Wowkanech also served on the New Jersey Health Care Cost Reduction Advisory

Committee and participated in the Health Care Reform Coalition, which helped develop far-reaching health care reforms adopted by the State Legislature in 1992. In May of 1995, the Executive Board (with the reaffirmation of its 600 delegates) named Mr. Wowkanech the Secretary-Treasurer of the NJ State AFL-CIO. And as the former Chairman of the New Jersey Individual Health Coverage Program Board (IHC), Mr. Wowkanech was responsible for getting the state to adopt the strictest consumer protection standards in the nation.

In the spring of 1997, the Essex County Boy Scouts Council named Mr. Wowkanech "Good Scout of the Year." He continues to serve as labor's representative to the IHC Board and is also a member of the Governor's Council for a Drug-Free Workplace. Currently, he is a member of the executive boards of the Botto House National Labor Museum, the Rutgers Labor Center, and the Tri-State United Way's Board of Governors. Mr. Wowkanech resides with his wife, Lu Ann, and his sons Charles and Michael in Ocean City, New Jersey.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Wowkanech's community service. I extend to him my appreciation and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SHIPMAN ELEVATOR COMPANY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Shipman Elevator Company's chemical plant in Shipman, IL, for winning a 1999 Environmental Respect Award from Dealer Progress Magazine.

Shipman Elevator Company has taken proactive steps to ensure that their operations are safe and environmentally sound. For example, they use a combination of a computerized mixing program and the facility manager to ensure the processing and measuring of their products is always accurate. They also routinely conduct training and education classes for all of their employees to ensure the completion of environmental and efficiency goals.

I would like to express my gratitude to Shipman Elevator Company for producing agriculture products that are environmentally respected.

TRIBUTE TO EULA D. NELSON FLEET

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 9, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Eula D. Nelson Fleet, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service and education and to wish her a happy retirement.

Born in Apalachicola, Florida, Mrs. Fleet moved to New York City in 1943. In 1956, with her husband and four children, she moved to Patterson Houses in the Bronx, where they have lived ever since.

Mr. Speaker, in 1957, when her first child started school at P.S. 18, Eula Fleet started