

PS: Maybe, maybe. And the American Medical Association is not exactly exempt from blame. The physicians are the most antigovernment group of all. They're the highest paid profession in America by far, and so they are protecting their economic interests. Though the government now looks a little better to them than the insurance industry because they have more control over government than over the insurance companies.

Look, the country was barely ready for Medicare when that went through. It just made it through Congress by a few votes. There are some of us who would have liked to see it include nursing home or long-term convalescent care. That can only be done through social insurance, but people won't admit it. They say, "There's got to be a better way." It's a mantra. On healthcare: "There's got to be a better way." Education: "There's got to be a better way."

They've yet to say it for defense though. I'm waiting for them to privatize the Defense Department and turn it over to Pinkerton. Although in a way they have. There's a bunch of retired generals right outside the Beltway making millions of dollars of government money training the armed forces in Bosnia. I was there and what a bunch of crackpots! They've got these former drill sergeants over there, including people out to try to start wars on our ticket.

World: A few more short questions. Have the culture and atmosphere of the House changed in the years since you arrived here?

PS: Yes, though I spent 22 years in the majority and now four in the minority, so I may just be remembering good old days that weren't so good. Back when I was trying to end the Vietnam War. I was in just as much of a minority as I am now, and I didn't have a subcommittee chair to give me any power or leverage.

On the other hand, look at the country now. Look at TV talk shows—they argue and shout and scream, and then they call it journalism. Maybe we're just following in their footsteps.

World: Is it a spiritual challenge for you to have to work with, or at least alongside, people with whom you disagree, sometimes violently?

PS: Yes, and I don't a very good job. My wife says, "When you retire, why don't you become an ambassador?" And I say, "Diplomacy doesn't run deep in these genes." But it's tough if you internalize your politics and believe in them.

Still, I like legislating—to make it all work, to take all the pieces that are pushing on you, to make the legislation fit, to accommodate and accomplish a goal. It really makes the job kind of fascinating. I once reformed the part of the income tax bill that applies to life insurance, and that's one of the most arcane and complex parts of the tax bill. It was fun—bringing people together and getting something like that. And actually writing that health bill was fun.

But not now. We don't have any committee hearings or meetings anymore. It's all done in back rooms. Under the Democratic leadership we used to go into the back room, but there were a lot of us in the room. Now they write bills in the speaker's office and avoid the committee system. I mean, it's done deals. We're not doing any legislating, or not very much.

World: Do you think about quitting?

PS: No, I don't think about quitting. I'd consider doing something else, but I don't know what that is. Secretary of health and human services? Sure, but don't hold your breath until I'm offered the job. Even in the minority, being in the Congress is fascinating, and as long as my health and faculties hold out. * * * I mean, I'm not much interested in shuffleboard or model airplanes.

MASS IMMIGRATION REDUCTION ACT

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, on January 6, with the support of 48 original cosponsors, I introduced the Mass Immigration Reduction Act. My bill, formerly called the Immigration Moratorium Act, provides for a significant, but temporary, cut in legal immigration to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that many Members of this body would be surprised to learn that the immigrant population is now growing faster than at any time in our nation's history. The number of immigrants living in the United States has almost tripled since 1970, from 9.6 million to 26.3 million. This profusion in immigrants has a profound and costly impact on our way of life. For example, the net annual current fiscal burden imposed on native households at all levels of government by immigrant households nationally is estimated to range from \$14.8 to \$20.2 billion. As troubling, the poverty rate for immigrants is nearly 50 percent higher than that of natives. This suggests that our immigration policies are not only unfair to citizens, but are a disservice to immigrants who come here looking for a better, more prosperous way of life. As federal legislators, we have an obligation to take a serious look at our immigration policies and the problems that stem from them. It is our duty to devise an immigration system that is in our nation's best interest.

Under my proposed legislation, immigration would be limited to the spouses and minor children of U.S. citizens, 25,000 refugees, 5,000 employment-based priority workers and a limited number of immigrants currently waiting in the immigration backlog. The changes would expire after five years, provided no adverse impact would result from an immigration increase. Total immigration under my bill would be around 300,000 per year, down from the current level of about one million annually. I should emphasize that my bill is not intended to serve as a permanent long-term immigration policy. It would provide a lull in legal immigration, during which time we would have an opportunity to reevaluate America's immigration needs and set up more appropriate conditions under which immigrants may become permanent residents of the United States.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me stress that we should continue to welcome immigrants to our great country. However, we should do so under a well-regulated policy that is based upon America's needs and interests. Currently, we lack such a policy. Our system allows for unmanageable levels of immigrants with little regard for the impact the levels have on our limited ability to absorb and assimilate newcomers. I strongly urge my colleagues to examine our immigration system and ask themselves whether it is in the best interests of their constituents to continue the unprecedented trend of mass immigration. I encourage Members to support my bill, and look forward to productive debate on this important issue.

LEGISLATION TO RAISE THE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR U.S. CAPITOL POLICE OFFICERS FROM 57 TO 60

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, on January 6, 1999 I introduced legislation to change the mandatory retirement age for U.S. Capitol Police Officers from 57 to 60. It is identical to legislation I introduced in the last Congress, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bill.

As every Member of Congress knows, the Capitol Police is one of the most professional and dedicated law enforcement agencies in the country. They perform a vital and important function. The force is blessed to have a large number of experienced and highly competent officers. Unfortunately, every year dozens of officers are forced to leave the force because of the mandatory retirement rule. Many of these officers are in excellent physical condition. Most important, they possess a wealth of experience and savvy that is difficult, if not impossible, to replace.

Raising the mandatory retirement age from 57 to 60 will provide the Capitol Police with the flexibility necessary to retain experienced, highly competent and dedicated officers. It will enhance and improve security by ensuring that the force experiences a slower rate of turnover.

I introduce this legislation at a time when the Capitol Police is struggling to increase the size of its force in the face of an increased workload. For example, I have spoken to a number of officers who are routinely working up to 56 hours of overtime a month. Plans by the Capitol Police Board to hire an additional 260 officers will not fully alleviate this serious problem. Raising the retirement age will certainly help to reduce the workload of the force.

Should this legislation become law, Capitol Police officers between the ages of 57 and 60 would still have to meet the standard requirements to remain on the force, including proficiency on the shooting range.

This legislation is a commonsense measure that will go a long way in improving and enhancing what is already one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the world. Once again, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

DISTINGUISHED INDIVIDUALS FROM INDIANA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicacy of liberty. Dr. King's life and, unfortunately, his vicious murder, remind us that we must continually work and, if necessary, fight to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his

ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in that battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in many of the citizens in communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of dedication and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Monday, January 18, 1999, at the Gary Genesis Center in Gary, Indiana. In the past year, these individuals have, in their own ways, acted with courage, met challenges, and used their abilities to reach goals and enhance their communities.

Former Gary City Councilman Roosevelt Haywood will be honored with the 1999 "Marcher's Award" for his contributions to the struggle for equality of civil rights. As a leader of the Fair Share Organization, he worked diligently in his fight for the civil rights of all minorities. In addition, Mr. Clifford Minton will receive the prestigious 1999 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Drum Major Award" for his outstanding contributions to fighting segregation. Clifford was one of the founders of the Frontiers International Civic Club and is the former Director of the Urban League of Northwest Indiana. Both Roosevelt Haywood and Clifford Minton should be applauded for their civil rights efforts in Northwest Indiana.

I would also like to recognize several Gary Tolleston Junior High School students: Tynes Anderson; Kenneth Bonner; Breone Dupre; LaKisha Girder; LeYona Greer; Katina Haaland-Ramer; Floyd Hobson; Leah Johnson; Ayashia Muhammad; Brooklyn Rogers; Brannon Smith; Mason Smith; Whitney Sullivan; Sheena Tinner; Phyllis Walker; and Courtney Williams. These students are members of the Tolleston Junior High School Spell Bowl Team, which won its fifth consecutive State Spell Bowl Championship. The team's success is also a credit to the outstanding ability and leadership of its teachers. In particular, Margaret Hymes and Janice Williams should be commended for the devotion they have demonstrated as coaches for the Tolleston Junior High Spell Bowl Team. Additionally, Tolleston Principal Lucille Upshaw and Dr. Mary Guinn, Gary Superintendent of Schools, should be recognized for their support. The accomplishments of these outstanding individuals are a reflection of their hard work and dedication to scholarship. Their scholastic effort and rigorous approach to learning have made them the best in the state. They have also brought pride to themselves, their families, their schools and their communities.

Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Miss Andrea Ledbetter of Gary, Indiana. She has been selected for the People to People Student Ambassador Program as part of the delegation going to New Zealand. The roots of the Student Ambassador Program reach back to 1956, when U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded People to People. He believed that individuals reaching out in friendship to citizens of other countries could contribute significantly to world peace. This is an excellent opportunity for Andrea to experience unparalleled opportunities for personal growth through an enriching program of educational and cultural interaction in another country.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. They set goals and worked to achieve them. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other colleagues to join me in commending their initiative, determination and dedication.

IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH & SERVICES

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of American Indian Health & Services. American Indian Health & Services is a non-profit organization that has been providing needed health services to Native Americans in Santa Barbara County since 1995. The mission of the organization is to improve the health and general welfare status of urban American Indians by providing quality comprehensive health services that are culturally appropriate, accessible and socially responsive. The organization serves all members of tribes and nations in an atmosphere that respects individuality, culture and identity.

American Indian Health & Services is celebrating five years of care and has received Federal, State, County and private funding to provide alcohol and substance abuse counseling, medical and dental care, youth programs, elders programs, benefits counseling and disease prevention.

As a nurse, I am very pleased to join the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers in celebrating five outstanding years of care.

HOUSE GIFT RULE AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the weakening of the Gift Ban in the House of Representatives.

For the past several years, the American people have become increasingly concerned about the power of special interests in Washington. They believe, sometimes correctly, that the day-to-day relationship between lobbyists and Members of Congress is simply too cozy. This has caused many Americans to wonder whose agenda is being pursued in Washington, the public's interest or the special interests?

For this reason, in October of 1995, I voluntarily instituted a Zero Tolerance Gift Ban on my office. Under this policy, my office no longer accepts any gifts from either constituents or special interests. All gifts that I or members of my staff receive have been returned or donated to a local charity. Meals paid by lobbyists are outlawed under my policy as well, and so are free tickets to sporting or commercialized cultural events. In addition

to these restrictions, no junkets are allowed. A remarkable number of special interest groups still offer all-expense-paid trips for members of Congress and their staff. In my office, these invitations are rejected.

After voluntarily imposing my own Gift Ban, I supported legislation to institute a Gift Ban that applied to all House Members and their staff. This new House-wide policy went into effect on January 1, 1996. I was proud to support this much needed reform in the House of Representatives. However today, I am saddened to learn that House leadership has chosen to take steps backward in our reform efforts. The legislation quickly passed on the House floor today, without the opportunity for opposition from Members, begins to unravel the policy we enacted two years ago. Weakening the reforms we previously supported undermines our previous efforts and gives the American people reason to question our motives. Had I been given the opportunity to vote on this motion Mr. Speaker, I would have voted against diluting the House Gift Ban.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SENIOR YOUTH ORCHESTRA

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 115 outstanding young men and women in the Montgomery County Senior Youth Orchestra. The members of this illustrious group have been selected to represent Montgomery County and the state of Maryland at the American Celebration of Music which will take place in Austria from June 18-27, 1999.

The Montgomery County Senior Youth Orchestra is one of a very select group of musical organizations in the United States who will be celebrating the rich musical and cultural heritage of Austria, and observing the centennial of Johann Strauss. Under the direction of Olivia W. Gutoff, the orchestra will perform in Austria's four imperial cities: Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Graz.

One of the oldest youth orchestra programs in the country, the Montgomery County Youth Orchestra program was founded in 1946. It enjoys an international reputation, having performed in England, Wales, Switzerland, and at the Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic, the Music Educators National Conference, the Music Educators National Conference Eastern Division Conference and the Maryland Music Educators Conference. The Montgomery County Youth Orchestra's summer music program led to the formation of the Maryland Center for the Arts, which is now operated by the Maryland State Department of Education. Over the years, the Montgomery County Youth Orchestra program has grown from one orchestra to four. These four are the String Ensemble, Preparatory, Junior and Senior Orchestra.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the outstanding young men and women of the Montgomery County Senior Youth Orchestra and their conductor, Mrs. Olivia Gutoff. I thank them for the honor which has been bestowed upon Maryland as they represent us at the American