

TRIBUTE TO PAYNE STEWART

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

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our Nation and world lost a great golfer in Payne Stewart. He died in a very tragic accident that most of the Nation followed in a plane crash that occurred many miles away from his home in Florida.

He was a great golfer for many reasons, obviously 20 years in the professionals, 3 majors wins, 8 PGA tours, and 7 victories worldwide. Who could forget that famous 15-foot birdie putt in the U.S. Open this year and give him the great victory that he had just a few months ago at Pinehurst, a victory that came as the longest putt in the tournament in the history of the country in the U.S. Open.

But Payne Stewart was much more than a great golfer. He was a very, very deeply religious man. He held great convictions. He was a humanitarian. He was a father and a husband, a dedicated father and husband.

Orlando became his home in 1983 in my congressional district. I can tell my colleagues that the people of central Florida benefited greatly from Payne Stewart's generosity and his warmth and compassion for other people.

Perhaps his most well-known charitable contribution came back in 1987 when he donated \$108,000, his winnings from the Bay Hill Classic tournament to Florida Hospital. Those funds went to the Florida Hospital Circle of Care home in Altamonte Springs for the out-of-town parents of cancer patients.

But he sponsored many other charitable events and, as recently as this year, just a few days ago, gave a \$500,000 bequest to the First Baptist Church in Orlando, to their foundation.

I know that many Floridians will miss him deeply. Many in central Florida will miss him, not alone because of his golf career and because of his wit, but because of these charitable contributions. But a lot will miss him personally.

I know that Jack Nicklaus was quoted in the paper this morning, in my hometown paper of the Orlando Sentinel, saying, "Payne always had a sharp wit, a tongue-in-cheek that came with a little bit of a needle, which is something everyone always enjoyed."

But I think the people who are obviously going to miss him most will be his wife Tracy and his two wonderful children. Our heart tonight goes out to them, to Payne's family. He is a great man, a great golfer. His life ended in tragedy, but he gave so much to so many. He will be long remembered and long cherished.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RANGEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is going to be sort of like a lesson plan. It is about Social Security. Next Wednesday at 11 a.m., a week from tomorrow, I will have a press conference on a Social Security bill that I am introducing that will keep Social Security solvent forever. I have been working on Social Security for the last 5 years, developing what I think is a reasonable proposal to keep Social Security solvent and protected. We are going to hear later tonight about the importance of not spending the Social Security surplus.

A year ago last April, I was asked to chair a bipartisan task force on Social Security. At that time, most everybody thought that the Democrats and Republicans would not come to any agreement on what we should do about Social Security. But after 15 hearings with two or three or four witnesses per hearing, we became so convinced and, therefore, unified about how serious the problem of keeping Social Security solvent was and how important Social Security was to so many Americans that Republicans and Democrats came together and agreed on 18 findings.

I just want to quickly go through these finding. I know it is sort of like a lesson plan, but if my colleagues have a mental attitude that this is going to tremendously affect their future retirement, the retirement of their kids, and the retirement of their parents, then bear with me on these 18 findings, because this is what I have patterned my new Social Security program after.

□ 1800

I am going to start. "Background Social Security is a universal program that has provided a safety net for Americans." One-third of seniors today depend on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their total retirement income.

"Time is the enemy of Social Security reform and we should move without delay." Time is the minimum because we are running out of money. It is expected that by 2012 to 2014 there is going to be less FICA tax coming in than is able to accommodate existing benefits at that time. The longer we put off not utilizing the surplus that is coming in for the next several years, the more drastic that solution is going to have to be.

"Change should be gradual to allow workers to adjust their retirement plans, and any change for current or near-term retirees should be minimal." And that is what we have been working on the last several weeks in my bill, and it will be a bipartisan bill with Democrats and Republicans sponsoring that bill. It will keep Social Security solvent not just for 75 years but forever.

The next item we agreed on is, "So-

cial Security under the current structure is projected to become insolvent during the next 75 years." And that is the problem. That is why it is important not spending the surplus now, because it is going to be that much more difficult to pay that back to Social Security when the time comes.

"Any reform must consider the effects on all generations, genders and those currently receiving Social Security benefits."

"Solvency and reform are not necessarily tied together."

"No payroll tax increase." And again I remind my colleagues that this is Democrats and Republicans on this task force agreeing.

"Social Security surpluses should only be spent on Social Security." That is what we are fighting about here in Congress now.

"Social Security reform should encourage savings and overall economic growth." And that is why investing some of that money in the capital markets and how that might be best utilized is so important in how we develop a final plan.

"The Social Security Trust Fund is a secure, legal entity comprised of U.S. Treasury bonds backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government." Listen to this, though. "While the U.S. has never defaulted on any of its obligations, these bonds represent a claim on future Federal revenue. Such securities will have to be redeemed from funds outside of the Trust Fund." That means we either cut other spending, we increase taxes, or we reduce benefits.

"The current demographic projections may very well underestimate the future of life expectancy." We had testimony that within 25 years anybody that wanted to live to be 100 years old would have that option; within 40 years anybody that wanted to live to be 120 years old would have that option. Tremendous implications not only on Social Security but on everybody's retirement plans. And that is why we, in the bill we will be introducing, encourage additional savings.

I am going through the rest of these very quickly. "Guaranteed return securities and annuities can be used with personal accounts as part of an investment safety net." We have financial managers now that will guarantee investments in the stock market and guarantee that investors will not have a loss.

"A universal Social Security survivor and disability benefit program needs to be maintained." No changes in that part.

"Congress should consider paying for a portion of the disability benefits for certain workers that have only been working a short time."

Again, our press conference will be next Wednesday at 11 a.m., a week from tomorrow. We hope all our colleagues will attend, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important that we look at the long-range solutions for Social Security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KILPATRICK addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMPUTERS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE ANSWER
TO EDUCATION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, usually when I rise to speak in the period of special orders it is to talk about some specific bill or specific legislation. Tonight I am doing something a little different and discussing something that I think has the potential of becoming a problem in some ways, and I would just like to call some attention to it and get some people, hopefully, to start thinking about it.

In doing so, I will start by reading a quote that I read, I think sometime last year in, I believe, an Associated Press story, and it was a quote from David Geleanter, who is a professor of computer science at Yale University. He said this. "Computers themselves are fine. But we are in the middle of an education catastrophe. Children are not being taught to read, write, know arithmetic or history. In those circumstances, to bring a glitzy toy into the classroom seems to me to be a disaster. It reinforces our worst tendencies. The idea that children are in educational trouble because they do not have access to enough glitz and what they really need is a bigger database is staggeringly ludicrous. They need practice in the basics." That is a quote by a professor of computer science at Yale.

What I am saying tonight is let us do not forget the basics in education. Sure, it is important to learn about computers, but we seem to be worse off with the computer today in thinking that it is the end-all of education and we are neglecting the basics in many, many ways. Children still need to learn to read and write and know arithmetic and know history and the basics.

Secondly, along this same line, I heard Tony Kornheiser, one of the sports columnists for the Washington

Post and on ESPN and so forth, and he mentioned in a column, and also I heard him on the radio talking about this one time, about three young men who had called him at different times during the time of the last World Series, and he said they each asked for Tony Kornheiser's e-mail address. He said when he told them that this was Tony Kornheiser to whom they were speaking, he said they got so flustered that a couple of them hung up, and one got so nervous that he could hardly speak. He asked the question, are we raising a generation of young people who are spending so much time in front of the television set and so much time in front of the computer screens that they are not developing the social skills that they really need or that people have developed in past years.

We became concerned as a society because children were spending so many thousands and thousands of hours in front of the television set. So we took them from in one of one screen and placed them in front of another screen called a computer, and I am just wondering if they are not isolating themselves. It is getting where people can shop at home, work at home, and we can all become Unibomber hermits if we want to, I suppose, but I do not think it will be good for society.

I tell young people at home to watch a little television. I have no objection to that. Learn the computer. We all have to do that today. It is an important and valuable thing. But every once in a while get out and get involved with a real life human being. Life will mean more if you do. Unfortunately, we are having fewer and fewer people who are joining the American Legion and the Kiwanis and the Shrine and all the various civic and charitable organizations that have been so very important to this country for so many years.

Thirdly, Madam Speaker, I heard a few months ago Barbara Walters on 20/20 one night saying she was going to present the most important hour she had ever presented on television. That got my curiosity up because she has been on television for so long. And what it was, it was a program devoted to warning parents about the sick, evil things that are on the Internet. There again, that is another facet of this same problem.

I am not against computers. I am all in favor of computers. But what I am saying is we still need to make sure our young people learn the basics in school, like reading, writing, and history. We still need to make sure that our young people develop the social skills that they need to survive.

My father told me many years ago, half jokingly and half seriously, that the problems of this country grew worse when they stopped putting front porches on the houses. People stopped visiting with each other. They tell us many people do not know their next door neighbors. All I am saying is we need to make sure we do not get isolated unto ourselves to where we do not really know people and get in-

volved helping other people in their lives.

During this program by Barbara Walters, she told the story of a little boy who had actually become involved with such terrible things over the Internet that he ended up with such rage built up in him that he killed another child. Barbara Walters thought it was so very important to warn parents about some of these horrible things that are on the Internet and that children are exposed to that they were not exposed to so many years ago.

So all I am saying tonight is we need to be aware of those three things, those three concerns, because it is very, very important to this country and to its future that we make sure that young people get the benefits of all this new technology but are not harmed by it.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SENATOR
CHAFEE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in great sadness to offer my sincere thanks to a man known as an outstanding example of a true leader among his colleagues in the Senate and indeed in life.

Senator Chafee was known as an old-fashioned legislator. He took his job very seriously but he eschewed politics. He cared about public policy and doing his best for the people of this Nation, never cowing to the partisanship in which we so often becoming entangled.

I knew him best as a modern man in the Senate, as the co-chair of the Congressional Prevention Coalition. As its co-chair, Senator Chafee worked to spread crucial health information to Members of the House and Senate so that they could spread the word to their constituents throughout the United States.

That was just one of the many ways Senator Chafee reached across the aisle to make America a better place to live. We are all better people for his efforts. As the Washington Post said this morning, the Senate will be a lesser place without him. He will be sorely missed by us all.

THE BUDGET PROCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I and a group of colleagues come here tonight to discuss the approaching conclusion of the budget process. A lot of people do not get too excited about budgets, but that is really what it is all about. Whether it is our family, our business, or the