

Palmer also got an early out to try out with the Chicago Bears as an offensive lineman.

"For 2 years, McInnis has been trying to use the Freedom of Information Act to get a complete list of those who received waivers from service academies for athletic purposes, but he is having a hard time of it."

"It is easy to understand why the military schools might be tempted to fudge the rules in order to entice more athletes. For decades they played at the top levels of intercollegiate athletics, but that is no longer true. A military career is just not as attractive to top athletes as it once was. Frustrated academy graduates who are now generals and admirals want to do what they can to slow or reverse the trend. The military tries to justify the current policy by saying that their star athletes serve effectively as academy recruiters upon their early release, but we suspect the kids they mainly recruit are other outstanding athletes who will also expect early releases.

"Those who get releases, after signing pro contracts, do not have to repay the \$120,000 cost of their education and they do not have to go back to active duty even if they are later cut by their teams. Their only obligation is to spend 6 years in the Reserves.

"If pro athletes serve as effective recruiters, says McInnis, why not let United Airlines recruit the top pilots from the Air Force Academy, so long as they say on the airplane, 'You are being flown by an Air Force Academy graduate.'

"McInnis dismisses the suggestion that early releases might be all right if the graduate or his employer simply repays the Government the cost of his or her education. The economics of professional athletes are such that \$120,000 is merely, quote, what professional teams spend on refreshments at weekend resorts, unquote.

"The point, says McInnis, is that academy athletes deserve no privileges that other graduates cannot get. 'It is just wrong,' he says, of the early-release policy. 'It makes me mad.'

"Considering the athletes the major state universities recruit, how little some of them study and how few of them ultimately graduate, the service academies should not be ashamed that their cadets can no longer compete at that level. If they have to play smaller schools, it is no disgrace.

"But the early-out policy for their athletes is a disgrace, and should be stopped."

Folks, my point is very clear. We are proud of these academies. The Air Force Academy and West Point and the Coast Guard and the Naval Academy have served this country very well. Our great military leaders, some of our presidents, many of our great leaders in this country have come from those academies. Why? Because when you go to an academy, it is a pretty special place. It has the highest of standards, and it has the highest of ethical codes.

I think we are diluting that. I think we are diluting the reputation of all the preceding graduates of these academies for the entire history of those academies by taking a special class of athletes and treating them differently, by letting them out of their obligations early. Again, remember, we do not do it for any other class of Air Force or Naval or West Point or Coast Guard Academy graduate. It is wrong. We should stand up and say to the American people, you can expect more from our academies.

I want to mention a couple of other things in conclusion this evening. First of all, as I said earlier, I come from the third district of Colorado. This is a very special season coming up in Colorado so I am going to do a little promotion. I hope all of my colleagues have an opportunity to go out and see our colors in the Aspen trees. The district I represent is the highest district in the United States. They have a lot of beautiful communities, a lot of great ski resorts, Aspen, Sonoma, Steamboat, Telluride. I will get in trouble because I do not name them all, but virtually every ski resort in Colorado is in that district.

So if my colleagues get an opportunity, we invite them to come out to Colorado. Come and visit us. Come and see what beauty we have out there. But I also want to point out something else. When my colleagues head out of this city, take a look at how important it is that we allow the average working Joe and the average working Jane in this country to be promised and to expect fair treatment by their Government when it comes to taxes.

Every Government leader out there should understand that they have a fiduciary duty, an obligation, to try and deliver the most efficient services the Government can at the least amount of cost, and every Government official out there has an obligation to you, the working Joe and the working Jane, the people that provide these dollars, there is an obligation on behalf of every elected or every Government employee or every Government official to make sure that you are not being overcharged.

There is an obligation by every one of us in these chambers to look at that taxpayer and we ought to say thank you to them. We ought to say thank you to the working people of this country, because if it were not for the 8 or 12 or 14 hours they work every day 5 or 6 or 7 days a week, that money to provide for the programs that we run out of these chambers would not be here. We owe them a big thank you, and we also owe them the duty to make sure that when we spend those dollars we spend them effectively, that we are fair to the taxpayer.

Our system needs taxes. It has to operate with taxes, but our system has a fundamental requirement of fairness and openness to the people that send that money to Washington. And when we have an opportunity to send that

money and put it back in the pocket-books of those hard working Americans that provide those dollars, we should take it.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. TOWNS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today before 6 p.m. on account of personal business.

Mr. CROWLEY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 2 p.m. on account of official business.

Mr. ROGAN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SCOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RUSH, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BEREUTER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, for 5 minutes, September 16.

Mr. BEREUTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1076. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance programs providing health care and other benefits for veterans, to authorize major medical facility projects, to reform eligibility for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 457. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase the amount of leave time available to a Federal employee in any year in connection with serving as an organ donor, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes

p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, September 13, 1999, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3974. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pork Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Order—Decrease in Importer Assessments [No. LS-99-03] received August 17, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3975. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Mediterranean Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Area [Docket No. 98-083-6] received September 8, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3976. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for transfers from the Information Technology Systems and Related Expenses Account for Year 2000 compliance to the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Export Administration, the Department of the Treasury, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission; (H. Doc. No. 106-116); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

3977. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for transfers from the Information Technology Systems and Related Expenses Account for Year 2000 compliance to the Department of the Interior, Labor, the Treasury, and to the District of Columbia; (H. Doc. No. 106-117); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

3978. A letter from the Director, Congressional Budget Office, transmitting CBO's Sequestration Update Report for Fiscal Year 2000, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. section 904(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

3979. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on the transfer of property to the Republic of Panama under the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 and related agreements, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3784(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3980. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting approval of the retirement of Lieutenant General Charles H. Roadman II, United States Airforce, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3981. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmitting transactions involving U.S. exports to the People's Republic of China (China); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

3982. A letter from the President and Director, Export-Import Bank, transmitting transactions involving exports to Mexico; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

3983. A letter from the President and Director, Export-Import Bank, transmitting transactions involving U.S. exports to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

3984. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting Final Regu-

lations—Direct Grant Programs, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3985. A letter from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, transmitting the Energy Information Administration's "Annual Energy Review 1998," pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 790f(a)(2); to the Committee on Commerce.

3986. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the annual report summarizing the findings of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Commerce.

3987. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); (H. Doc. No. 106-115); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

3988. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract to France [Transmittal No. DTC 57-99], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(d); to the Committee on International Relations.

3989. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed Manufacturing License Agreement with Germany [Transmittal No. DTC 97-99], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(d); to the Committee on International Relations.

3990. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract to Russia [Transmittal No. DTC 98-99], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

3991. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract to Turkey [Transmittal No. DTC 125-98], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

3992. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract to France [Transmittal No. DTC 21-99], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

3993. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract to Greece [Transmittal No. DTC 18-99], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

3994. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

3995. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

3996. A letter from the Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting List of all reports issued or released by the GAO in June 1999, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 719(h); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3997. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Additions to the Procurement List—received August 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3998. A letter from the Comptroller General, transmitting the Research Notification System through July 6, 1999; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3999. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's report entitled "The Role of Delegated Examining Units: Hiring New Employees in a Decentralized Civil Service," pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4000. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator For Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—International Fisheries Regulations; Pacific Tuna Fisheries [Docket No. 990212047-9208-02; I.D. 111998C] (RIN: 0648-AL28) received September 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4001. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator For Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Groupers Fishery Off the Southern Atlantic States; Restricted Reopening of Limited Access Permit Application Process [Docket No. 990820230-9230-01; I.D. 080599B] (RIN: 0648-AM92) received September 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4002. A letter from the Reserve Officers Association, transmitting a copy of the Report of Audit for the year ending 31 March 1999 of the Association's accounts, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101(41) and 1103; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4003. A letter from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting notification that funding under Title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, will exceed \$5 million for the response to the emergency declared on June 23, 1998, as a result of the extreme fire hazards which severely impacted the State of Texas from June 4, 1998 through and including November 3, 1998, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4004. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; York, NE [Airspace Docket No. 99-ASO-25] received September 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4005. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class D Airspace; Tupelo, MS [Airspace Docket No. 99-ASO-10] received September 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4006. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Procedures for Protests and Contract Disputes; Amendment of Equal Access to Justice Act Regulations; Correction [Docket No. FAA-1998-4379; Amendment No. 14-03, Part 17 (New)] (RIN: 2120-AG19) received September 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.